FRIDAY
May 12, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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J BG-BGE

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KOZHIKODE TRAIN ARSON

NIA searches Shaheen Bagh, seizes devices

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'Imran Khan's arrest was illegal'

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OPPOSITION ALLIANCES

Nitish meets Pawar, Uddhav in Mumbai

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Is the monarchy relevant in the 21st century?

It is constantly having to reinvent itself

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CRUCIAL MATCH

Mumbai Indians up against Gujarat Titans

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NEARBY

'Out-of-sync voter lists to be blamed'

BENGALURU
As the numbers for Bengaluru released by the EC showed 55% voter turnout, barring postal votes and home voting, experts and civic group activists say errors in electoral rolls are reasons for the underwhelming numbers.

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RTI group writes to Chief Secretary

BENGALURU
The Mahiti Hakku Adhyayana Kendra has written to the Chief Secretary alleging closure of the IFMS portal to citizens and release of ₹1,000 crore to contractors without uploading information on the portal.

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METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Governor's decision to call floor test wrong: SC

Court effectively opens doors for disqualification of Shinde camp, but says Maharashtra Governor was justified in inviting him to form the govt. as Thackeray quit voluntarily before the trust vote

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous judgment, effectively opened the doors for disqualification proceedings against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for defection from the Shiv Sena, and held that the then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari "erred" in calling for a trust vote, which triggered the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led *Maha Vikas Aghadi* (MVA) government in mid-2022.

The court also said that Governor Koshyari was right in inviting Mr. Shinde to form the new government as Mr. Thackeray had resigned before the floor test. This means that the Shinde government will continue in power for now.

"The Governor had no objective material on the basis of which he could doubt the confidence of the incumbent government... Floor test cannot be used as a means to settle differences within a political party... The Governor erred in concluding that Mr. Thackeray had lost support... The discretion to call for a floor test is not an unfettered discretion," a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The court said that it could not quash the voluntary resignation of Mr. Thackeray as CM, and thus reinstate his MVA government. "Had Mr. Thackeray refrained from resigning from the post of the Chief Minister, this court could have considered the grant of the remedy of reinstating the government headed by him," it said.

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MORALITY, MAJORITY
» PAGE 8

Plans afoot: Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis at the press meet at Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

After verdict, all eyes on Speaker Rahul Narwekar

MUMBAI
With the Supreme Court ruling in the Maharashtra political row case that "the Speaker must decide on the disqualification petitions within a reasonable period," all eyes are now on Speaker Rahul Narwekar. » PAGE 11

Delhi Cabinet Ministers greet Arvind Kejriwal as he arrives at the Secretariat after the SC ruling on regulation of services row. PTI

SC: Delhi govt. has control over officers

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In a blow to the Centre, the Supreme Court on Thursday gave the Delhi government power to make laws and wield control over bureaucrats deputed to its departments while declaring that civil service officers are "politically neutral professionals" who serve the people and not parties.

"A constitutionally entrenched and democratically elected government needs to have control over its administration. The administration comprises of several public officers, who are posted in the services of a particular government, irrespective of whether or not that government was involved in their recruitment," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud debunked the Centre's argument that it retained "administrative control" over officers deputed to Delhi.

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Voter turnout this time is the highest ever

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Of the 5,30,85,566 electors in Karnataka, 3,88,51,807 cast their votes in the Assembly elections held on May 10, taking the percentage of voting to 73.19, which is the highest-ever turnout in the State's electoral history.

Chickballapur district reported the highest turnout at 85.56%, while Bengaluru recorded the lowest at 55%. In terms of constituencies, Bommanahalli in Bengaluru recorded the lowest at 47.36 % and Melkote in Mandya the highest at 91%.

When regions are taken into account, Kalyana Karnataka saw the biggest spike by 2.6 percentage points and coastal Karnataka saw a dip by 1.21 percentage points.

Counting of votes will be taken up on Saturday.

DETAILED REPORTS
» PAGE 4

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's wheat production estimate for FY23

112.18 In million tonnes. The production may surpass this estimate in the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) due to a likely jump in crop yields in major growing States. PTI

The investment of Hyundai Motor India in Tamil Nadu

20,000 in ₹ crore. The company has finalised plans to develop and establish Tamil Nadu as a base for Hyundai's EV manufacturing in India. PTI

The expected cotton exports from India in FY 2022-23

2 million bales. India's cotton exports are set to fall to their lowest level in 18 years as production lagged behind domestic consumption for a second straight year. Exports could be below the 4.3 million bales exported last year. REUTERS

The slump in PoS payments in Pakistan after Imran arrest

50 In percentage. Point-of-sale transactions routed through Pakistan's digital payments system fell by nearly 50% the day after former Prime Minister Imran Khan's arrest ignited nationwide protests. REUTERS

Japan's pledge to help and facilitate Ukraine refugees

1 In $ billion. Japan unveils a plan to help countries surrounding Ukraine accept refugees from the country. The funds will also facilitate investment by Japanese firms in those countries. REUTERS

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The SC ruling on *Sena vs. Sena*

Why did the Court state that the call of the then Maharashtra Governor to initiate a trust vote was not justified? Can the Court reinstate Uddhav Thackeray? Can the courts rule on disqualification petitions? What has it said on the Speaker's role?

EXPLAINER

Sonam Saigal

The story so far:
In a unanimous judgment, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that then Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's call for a trust vote, which led to the resignation of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government last June, was illegal. It said that Mr. Koshiyari was "not justified" in calling Chief Minister Uddhav Thackerary to prove his majority on the floor of the House. But the Court also said that it could not reinstate Mr. Thackeray as Chief Minister because he had resigned instead of facing the trust vote.

Curtain call: Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) workers celebrate the Supreme Court's verdict in Nagpur on May 11. PTI

How did the case land in the SC?
Last year, the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government was toppled and replaced by another government, comprising a faction of the Shiv Sena, which claimed to be the "real" Sena, the Bharatiya Janata Party and several Independent MLAs. The leader of the breakaway Sena faction, Eknath Shinde, became Chief Minister.

The first petition was filed by Mr. Shinde last June after notices were issued by then Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly, Narhari Zirwal, against 40 rebel MLAs under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution which deals with disqualification on the grounds of defection. Thereafter, petitions were filed by the Thackeray group challenging the then Maharashtra Governor's decision to call for a trust vote and the swearing-in of Mr. Shinde as Chief Minister. The election of the new Speaker, Rahul Narwekar, was also challenged. A Constitution Bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices M.R. Shah, Krishna Murari, P.S. Narasimha and Hima Kohli had reserved its judgment on March 16. On May 11, based on the five petitions and arguments made by both parties, the Court gave its ruling on questions of law that arose in this case in a 141-page judgment.

Can the Supreme Court decide a disqualification petition?
The Speaker is the authority to adjudicate petitions for disqualification under the 10th Schedule. The petitioners wanted the Court to give its decision on the issue of disqualification of Mr. Shinde and his supporters. However, the Court said it "cannot ordinarily adjudicate petitions for disqualification under the 10th Schedule. There are no extraordinary circumstances in the instant case that warrant the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court to adjudicate disqualification petitions. The Speaker must decide disqualification petitions within a reasonable period."

The Court said an MLA has the right to participate in the proceedings of the House "regardless of the pendency of any petitions for their disqualification. The validity of the proceedings of the House in the interregnum (the period between a regime change) is not 'subject to' the outcome of the disqualification petitions."

Was the floor test justified?
The Court noted that the Governor was not justified in calling upon Mr. Thackeray to prove his majority on the floor of the House "because he did not have reasons based on objective material before him, to reach the conclusion that Mr. Thackeray had lost the confidence of the House." But the Court also said that "status quo ante cannot be restored" because Mr. Thackeray did not face the floor test and resigned from the post. The Governor, it said, was justified in inviting Mr. Shinde to form the government.

What is the Court's ruling on the role of the political party in relation to the legislature party?
Questions arose on whose whip is binding, if the whip appointed by the political party and the one acting on behalf of the legislature party (the Shinde group in this case) give different instructions to members. The Shinde faction argued that it is the legislature party that appoints the whip. The Court disagreed: "To hold that it is the legislature party which appoints the Whip would be to sever the figurative umbilical cord which connects a member of the House to the political party. It would mean that legislators could rely on the political party for the purpose of setting them up for election, that their campaign would be based on the strengths (and weaknesses) of the political party and its promises and policies, that they could appeal to the voters on the basis of their affiliation with the party, but that they can later disconnect themselves entirely from that very party and be able to function as a group of MLAs which no longer owes even a hint of allegiance to the political party."

The Court ruled that direction to vote in a particular manner or abstain is issued by the political party, and not the legislature party.

Both the Whip and the Leader of the party in the House should be appointed only by the political party. Accordingly, it said the Speaker's action approving Mr. Shinde's appointment as Shiv Sena leader in the House was contrary to law. "The Speaker shall recognise the Whip and the Leader who are duly authorised by the Shiv Sena political party with reference to the provisions of the party constitution, after conducting an enquiry in this regard and in keeping with the principles discussed in this judgment," the judgment read.

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court held that then Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari's call for a trust vote, which led to the resignation of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government last June, was illegal.
- The Court noted that the Governor was not justified in calling upon Mr. Thackeray to prove his majority on the floor of the House "because he did not have reasons based on objective material before him, to reach the conclusion that Mr. Thackeray had lost the confidence of the House."
- The Court also said that it could not reinstate Mr. Thackeray as Chief Minister because he had resigned instead of facing the trust vote.

What is the stalemate over the U.S. debt ceiling?

Why is there a debt ceiling for the U.S.? What are the consequences of a debt default to the global economy?

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:
The U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen notified Congress last week that the country could default on its debt as early as June 1, if the Republican-dominated House of Representatives and President Joe Biden's White House did not reach a consensus to raise or suspend the debt ceiling.

What is the U.S. debt ceiling?
When the federal government spends more than it brings in, it runs up a budget deficit. It then has to borrow money to meet its financial obligations, accruing debt. The government borrows by creating and selling debt securities like bonds to U.S. investors and companies, banks, pension funds, foreign investors and countries. The largest part of these are owned by the U.S. federal government itself, which keeps the money for social security schemes, medicare, federal pensions and so on. While the administration and Congress decide on taxation and spending, the collection of taxes and the borrowing of funds is done by the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1917, Congress passed the Second Liberty Bond Act, to allow then-President Woodrow Wilson to take out funds for the First World War without waiting for the approval of absent Congress lawmakers. However, the Congress created a limit on borrowing ($11.5 billion at the time), thus creating a debt ceiling that could only be raised by the approval of the Congress (House and Senate).

The U.S. government has hit or come close to hitting the debt ceiling multiple times. According to Treasury Department figures, Congress has acted 78 separate times since 1960 either to permanently raise, temporarily extend, or revise the definition of the debt limit. While the government continues to receive taxation revenue after hitting the debt ceiling, it cannot borrow any more to pay its existing bills. The U.S. would then be unable to pay its debt-holders, resulting in a default.

Why have debt ceiling standoffs become a recurring issue?
For starters, the debt ceiling is not a "forward-looking" budgeting instrument, that is, it does not reveal what potentially ideal levels of spending look like. First, Congress approves programmes for which it does not have the entire funding, and then there's a limit on how much the Treasury can borrow to pay for these already approved programmes. Take this analogy, for instance: if Congress approves $100 of spending, $70 comes from taxes but the cap on what the government can borrow to pay for the rest is fixed at a mere $15.

Another reason why disagreements over the debt limit happen often, almost annually since 2011, is that it has become a political bargaining chip, as any raise or suspension has to be approved by Congress. As American politics becomes increasingly polarised, the Opposition has often used the debt limit as a way of getting budgetary and other legislative concessions. The U.S. came dangerously close to defaulting on its debt in 2011 when the Republicans and the Obama administration could not reach an agreement to hike the ceiling till the last minute. Observers have called the current impasse between House Republicans and the Biden administration even messier than in 2011. The Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy-led House passed a Bill that pairs a $4.8 trillion in spending cuts with an increase in the current $31.4 trillion debt ceiling. However, Mr. Biden said that he wants a clean debt-ceiling hike and won't negotiate any kind of cuts, resulting in the current deadlock.

Ms. Yellen and other economists suggest doing away with the debt ceiling, which does not contribute to fiscal discipline anymore and leads to frequent political grandstanding, often at the risk of national and global financial stability.

What will happen if the U.S. defaults?
Analysts say there is no set post-default scenario since the U.S. has never actually defaulted on its debt before. They have warned, however, of a "catastrophic" situation for American and global financial markets. If the government cannot make interest payments to domestic and foreign investors who own its debt securities, it could plunge the globe into a financial crisis, say Wall Street experts. The CFR points out that the "unthinkable" event of a U.S. default could lead to another downgrade of U.S. creditworthiness by agencies, large-scale job losses, weakening of the dollar, stock sell-offs, and a rise in the cost of borrowing for the U.S. government.

THE GIST

- The U.S. Treasury Secretary notified Congress last week that the country could default on its debt as early as June 1, if the House of Representatives and the White House did not reach a consensus to raise or suspend the debt ceiling.
- Disagreements over the debt limit happen often, almost annually since 2011, and it has become a political bargaining chip, as any raise or suspension has to be approved by Congress.
- Analysts say there is no set post-default scenario since the U.S. has never actually defaulted on its debt before.

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J BG-BGE

Not poll apathy, but out-of-sync voter lists reason for low turnout: Analysts and citizens

There is definitely a need to improve voting percentage, and political parties have to introspect why their manifestos and candidates are not able to inspire confidence in voters to come out enthusiastically, they say; Bengaluru records 55% voter turnout, barring postal votes and home voting

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

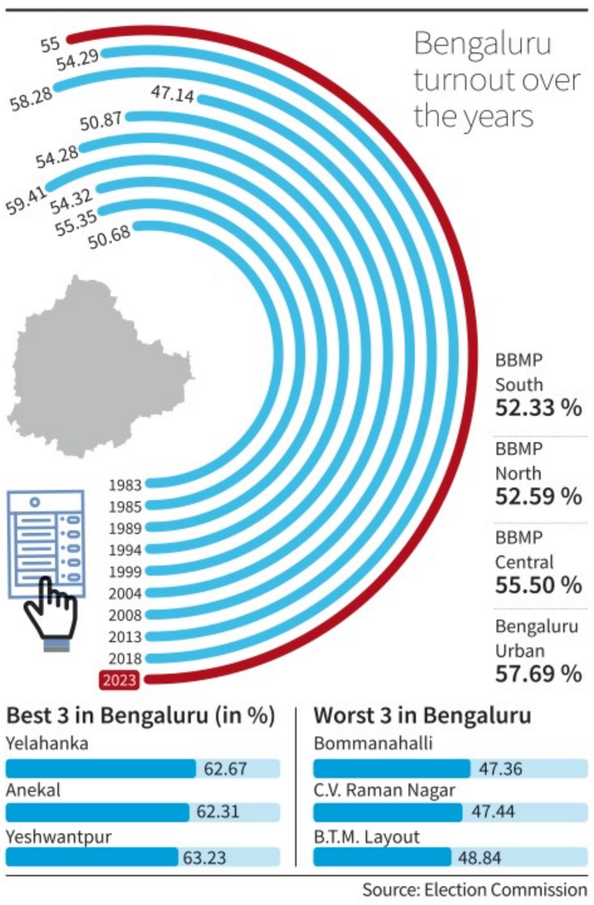
Does half of Bengaluru not vote? Or is there something more to it? As the numbers for Bengaluru released by the Election Commission on Thursday showed 55% voter turnout, barring postal votes and home voting, experts and civic group activists say errors in voter rolls like duplication, deletion, and mismatched entries that send voters from one booth to another are reasons for the underwhelming numbers.

The Election Commission and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) undertook various awareness drives to ensure better voter turnout, including some with resident welfare associations and other civic groups.

The Election Commission had also fixed a mid-week day, Wednesday, to prevent people from taking advantage of the "voting day holiday" by clubbing it with the weekend. However, Bengaluru's turnout did not see any major deviation from earlier trends. Among the four divisions, BBMP Central saw a turnout of 55.5%, BBMP North 52.59%, BBMP South 52.33%, and Bengaluru Urban 57.69%. Meanwhile, Karnataka voter turnout is at 73.19%.

Voters at a polling booth in Okalipuram on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Speaking to *The Hindu*, electoral roll analyst P.G. Bhat said that the Election Commission should spend resources on correcting the electoral rolls instead of putting all energy and time to conduct awareness drives. "I have been telling this for decades that the problem in voter turnout in Bengaluru is the 'menace of missing names' of genuine voters. Elections officials had deleted lakhs of entries in an effort to clean up the rolls. However, there have been many wrong deletions, leading to the disenfranchisement of genuine voters. Since the electoral system is insincere, voters get confused and frustrated and this leads to a poorer turnout," Mr. Bhat said.



Deletions, duplications

Civic activists also point out that improper deletions and duplicate entries are important reasons for low voter turnout. "Election after election, Bengaluru gets flak for low voter turnout. Did you know that Chennai had 59% and Mumbai 51% in their last Assembly election?" civic activist Srinivas Alavilli asked.

"The issue is not apathy, but out-of-sync voter lists in mega cities that have a lot of migration and intercity movement. Duplicate entries, voters going back to native to vote, improper deletions - these are known issues. If the baseline itself is wrong, the percentage will also be incorrect," he said.

"This is not to absolve citizens. There is certainly a need to improve voting percentage and political parties need to introspect why their manifestos and candidates are not able to inspire confidence in voters to come out enthusiastically," Mr. Alavilli added.

This year, the worst three constituencies in terms of voter turnout are Bommanahalli (47.36%), CV Raman Nagar (47.44%), and BTM Layout (48.84%), while the best are Yelahanka (62.67%), Anekal (62.31%), and Yeswantpur (63.23%).

Supriya Krishana, a resident of Bommanahalli, said: "There were a lot of issues in the electoral roll. We had to wait and run around to find our names in the list. Apart from this, when my family members wanted to register for the rolls, we had to face unfriendly officials. All this makes voters frustrated."

Two killed, 35 injured as two private buses collide

One of the buses involved in the accident near Kumsi in Shivamogga taluk on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Two people died on the spot and around 35 suffered injuries in a head-on collision between two private buses near Choradi in Shivamogga taluk on National Highway 206 on Thursday evening. Among the injured, three are said to be in critical condition.

A bus belonging to Venkatamahalakshmi Transport heading towards Shivamogga from Shikaripur hit another private bus belonging to Srinivasa Transport from the opposite direction. The incident happened close to the bridge constructed across Kumudvathi river.

The incident occurred in an accident-prone area. A signboard placed nearby suggests that travellers be careful while crossing the area. One of the deceased has been identified as Thippeswamy, 40, of Hosadurga in Chitradurga district. Another is aged about 43, and his identity is yet to be ascertained, said G.K. Mithun Kumar, SP, Shivamogga.

Ambulances were called in from Shivamogga. Around 10 ambulances carried the injured to McGann Hospital for treatment.

PU colleges counsel students about benefits of subjects other than computer science

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

It is no surprise that most students seeking admissions to Pre-University colleges (UC) have been preferring a combination which includes computer science (CS) for quite a few years now. This year, as the admission season is gaining pace, college administrations are trying to counsel students and give them better knowledge about other subjects so that they can make an informed choice, rather than blindly following the trend.

At most PU colleges, around 80% to 85% students prefer CS combinations, according to college principals. They stated that lack of awareness about the opportunities other subjects provide, as well as about the limitations of CS, is what leads students to make this choice. They have seen that post counselling, many change their preferences.

"They also prepare their parents to agree with their choices and come for admissions. While they think they should take CS as it will help them with engineering, we try to explain the benefits of other subjects. We tell them how taking biology can open up options like medicine, pharmacy, botany, and research," said Narayana Reddy, principal, PES PU College.

Similarly, C.R. Rajendra, principal, St. Joseph's PU College, said despite an array of advantages presented by electronics, students have not been preferring it for the last few years. "A combination of physics and electronics works very well for engineering. We also have a new science combination with statistics as a subject. Somehow, students are not aware of the merits of these subjects and ask for CS combinations. When it comes to commerce, any combination would be helpful if they are pursuing CA courses." Such insights are being provided to students during admission sessions this year.

ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

At government colleges too, the CS trend continues. "Though many choose biology, there is almost equal demand for CS as well. They might have a perception that CS will help them professionally. But this learning which happens in two years is very basic and it will not have those many professional benefits. Upon counselling, students usually understand this," said A.S. Ravi, principal, Govt. Boys PU college, Malleswaram.

When it comes to humanities, there are only fewer students who choose those subjects by choice, principals concurred. Only a handful of people who secure good marks choose humanities. "Students who like to pursue law, social services, or civil services are the ones who prefer to take humanities even when they score above 80-90%," Mr. Rajendra noted.

Not just a lack of awareness about subjects, it has been noticed that students are also not much aware of the provisions they have under NEP. When asked if their preferences for PU have changed based on NEP, Mr. Reddy said: "NEP was drafted for the benefit of the students, but there is not much awareness about what it entails and the electives students can choose, which combinations they can explore, and other aspects. That is why currently they do not consider it during PU admissions."

Fairfax India to acquire additional 3% equity interest in BIAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The transaction is expected to close in Q2 2023

Fairfax India Holdings Corporation has announced that through its wholly-owned subsidiary, it has entered into an agreement to acquire an additional 3% equity interest in Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) from Siemens Project Ventures GmbH, part of Siemens Financial Services (SFS), for consideration of $75 million.

The transaction is expected to close in Q2 2023, subject to the satisfaction of certain closing conditions, said Fairfax India.

In addition, Fairfax India has also agreed to acquire an additional 7% equity interest in BIAL from SFS for additional consideration of $175 million, subject to the satisfaction of certain performance conditions by BIAL and other closing conditions, which are expected to be tested subsequent to October 31.

"This additional investment in BIAL reinforces our confidence in the continued success and opportunities at BIAL. With the opening of Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal 2, we expect significant growth over the coming years. We had great support from Siemens through SFS over the past few years and look forward to our continued partnership," said Prem Watsa, chairman, Fairfax India.

Moodushedde clash: Prohibitory orders in 5 police station limits

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru Police Commissioner has imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in five police station limits of North Mangaluru, in view of the clash between BJP and Congress workers late on Wednesday at Moodushedde.

Commissioner Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain passed the orders applicable in Kavoor, Surathkal, Bajpe, Moodbidri, and Mangaluru Rural police limits.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 12	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 00:21	SET 12:04
SATURDAY, MAY. 13	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 01:11	SET 13:03
SUNDAY, MAY. 14	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 01:56	SET 13:59

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	33	24
Bengaluru	33	24

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

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THE HINDU
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SSLC examination: THiS institutions celebrate spectacular performance

Sudhindr A.B.
BENGALURU

Schools that are part of The Hindu in School programme recorded 100% pass result

A sense of jubilation prevailed in schools that are part of The Hindu in School (THiS) programme as they recorded 100% pass results in the SSLC examination. The results were announced on May 8.

Amara Jyoti English School, K.R. Puram, achieved 100% results over the past 20 years. In all, 135 students appeared, and 30 students secured distinctions. Nithin S., who scored 606 marks, emerged as the topper.

In Ganga International School, Nelagadaranahalli, 61 students appeared and eight secured distinctions. Nishanth S.S.., who secured 96.32%, was the topper.

St. Philomena's Public School, Byalakere, achieved 100% pass results for the 10th consecutive year. In all, 58 students appeared, and 35 got distinctions. Vidyashree H., who scored 616 marks, stood first.

In Lewa English High School, Rajajinagar, 27 students appeared and nine secured distinctions. Leela R., who scored 595 marks, stood first.

Achala Vidya Mandira High School, Rajajinagar, recorded 100% pass results for the 19th consecutive year. In all, 14 students appeared and five achieved distinctions. Sohan M., who scored 612 marks, emerged topper.

In St. Claret School, Jalahalli, 211 students appeared and 78 secured distinctions. Harish Raj D.V.., with 621 marks was the topper.

In Jubilee School, Vijinapura 105 students appeared and 38 secured distinctions. Nived Srenivasan with 603 marks was the topper.

In MES Kishora Kendra English Medium Primary and High School, Malleswaram, of the 138 students who appeared, 58 got distinctions. Shubham Kothari, who scored 613 marks, was the topper.

Pratham International School, Varthur achieved 100% pass results for the fourth consecutive year. In all, 11 students appeared and five secured distinctions. Druthi K., who scored 586 marks, stood first.

RTI group writes to CS alleging lack of transparency in payment to contractors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Mahiti Hakku Adhyayana Kendra (MHAK) has written to the Chief Secretary (CS) of the Karnataka government alleging closure of the Integrated Finance Management Services (IFMS) portal to citizens and release of ₹1,000 crore to contractors without uploading information on the portal.

Closure of the portal was termed as a 'violation of policy by BBMP'.

It termed the closure of the portal as "a complete violation of transparency policy by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)." The BBMP launched the portal for uploading all documents relating to work executed by the civic body before making payments, which is open to public. MHAK, in the letter to the Chief Secretary, alleged that access to citizens has been barred for one month and claimed that many "bogus bills" had been paid to select contractors, bypassing the procedure, amounting to more than ₹1,000 crore.

B.H. Veeresha, a trustee of the MHAK, has written to the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development, and the Chief Commissioner, BBMP, and sought an enquiry.

Devoid of truth: BBMP

However, the BBMP called the allegation "totally false, malicious and devoid of any truth."

"All payments in BBMP are done through IFMS only. This year 2023-24, is no exception. We have paid about ₹120 crores of administrative and small maintenance expenses and about ₹350 crore of work expenses during the current FY until now. All the above payments were made through IFMS only. We had blocked the IFMS 72 hours prior to the election from May 6 evening and have now reopened from May 11 morning to avoid any unwarranted payments during elections. The IFMS site had also been turned off during the said period of elections," said Jayaram Raipura, Special Commissioner (Finance), BBMP, adding that linking this to any other conclusion is "malicious and misleading".

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The jurisdictional conflict in the running of Delhi

When the Court declares the law and requires the constitutional authorities to follow it, they have to act in compliance and not in defiance

P.D.T. Achary

On May 11, the Supreme Court held that the National Capital Territory of Delhi has legislative and executive power over administrative services in the National Capital, excluding matters relating to public order, police and land. In this article, dated August 18, 2020, P.D.T Achary talks about the dispute between the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and the government of Delhi.

"The exercise of establishing a democratic and representative form of government for NCT of Delhi by insertion of Articles 239AA and 239AB would turn futile if the Government of Delhi that enjoys the confidence of the people of Delhi is not able to usher in policies and laws over which the Delhi Legislative Assembly has powers to legislate for the NCT of Delhi." So said the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in Government of NCT of Delhi vs. Union of India (2018). The issue before the Supreme Court was the jurisdictional conflicts between the government of NCT and the Union Government and its representative, the Lieutenant Governor.

Tense relations: Delhi LG Vinai kumar Saxena greeted by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in 2022. FILE PHOTO

Issues and possible solutions

The judgment which runs into more than 1,000 pages analyses the contentious issues which hobbled the State government and attempts to resolve them. Very lofty principles concerning constitutional morality, co-operative federalism, constitutional conscience, pragmatic federalism, etc., have been enunciated in this judgment. It reminds the Lt. Governor what his real functions are. It tells the State government that it should remember that Delhi is a special category Union Territory and lays down the parameters to enabling the harmonious functioning of the government and the Lt. Governor.

The judgment clarified and settled many contentious issues such as the powers of the Lt. Governor vis-à-vis the elected government, his discretionary powers, the extent of the executive powers of the State government, etc. On the face of it, it did not very clearly delineate the issues in respect of which the Lt. Governor can refer a decision taken by the Council of Ministers to the President in the event of a difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and the State government. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court has settled the law in regard to the 'aid and advice' of the Council of Ministers by affirming that the Lt. Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice except in respect of 'Land', 'Public Order' and the 'Police'.

The Court has also made it clear that there is no requirement of the concurrence of the Lt. Governor and that he has no power to overrule the decisions of the State government. However, there is a catch here – in the operationalisation of Article 239AA (4) (proviso) which says that in the case of a difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his Ministers on any matter, the Lt. Governor shall refer it to the President for decision and act according to that decision.

In the meantime, if the Lt. Governor thinks that the matter is urgent he can take immediate action on his own. So, ultimately things are back to square one. If a Lt. Governor, for example, wants to frustrate the efforts of the government, he can declare that there is a difference of opinion on any issue decided by the elected government and refer it to the President which in reality means the Union Home Ministry. The Lt. Governor being its representative, it is easier for him to secure a decision in his favour. The State government will be totally helpless in such a situation.

Delhi riot cases

The recent appointment of prosecutors for conducting the Delhi riot cases in the High Court is a case in point. As per the High Court and the Supreme Court, the appointment of prosecutors is exclusively within the purview of the State government. When the government decided to appoint them, the Lt. Governor referred it under proviso to Article 239AA (4) to the President stating that there is a difference of opinion between him and the government over this matter. In the meantime the Lt. Governor appointed all the prosecutors whose names were submitted by the Delhi Police and thus the State government's list was rejected.

This episode clearly points to the fault lines which still exist in the power equations in the capital's administrative structure. The key question is whether the Lt. Governor can refer a routine administrative matter such as the appointment of prosecutors to the President.

A close reading of the Supreme Court judgment in the NCT Delhi case (supra) would reveal that he cannot. Just take a look at what the Supreme Court says. "The words 'any matter' employed in the proviso to Article 239AA (4) cannot be inferred to mean 'every matter'. The power of the Lieutenant Governor under the said proviso represents the exception and not the general rule which has to be exercised in exceptional circumstances by the Lt. Governor. Keeping in mind the standards of Constitutional trust and morality, the principles of collaborative federalism and the concept of Constitutional balance...."

Matters of jurisdiction

The Court further says, "the Lieutenant Governor should not act in a mechanical manner without due application of mind so as to refer every decision of the Council of Ministers to the President." The highest judicial forum in the country in its own majestic style directs the Lt. Governor not to refer to the President normal administrative matters as that would disturb the concept of Constitutional governance, principles of collaborative federalism and the standards of Constitutional morality. Reference of the appointment of Prosecutors by the Lt. Governor to the President seems to be a negation of these principles.

There is another point which emerges from the judgment and attention needs to be paid to it. That is that the executive power of the Union does not extend to any of the matters which come within the jurisdiction of the Delhi Assembly. Parliament can legislate for Delhi on any matter in the State List and the Concurrent List but the executive power in relation to Delhi except the 'Police', 'Land' and 'Public Orders' vests only in the State government headed by the Chief Minister.

The Supreme Court says, "Article 239AA (3)(a) reserves the Parliament's legislative power on all matters in the State List and Concurrent List but clause (4) explicitly grants to the Government of Delhi executive powers in relation to matters for which the Legislative Assembly has powers to legislate." This statement of law by the Supreme Court implies that the Union Government is not empowered to exercise executive authority on a matter which comes within the exclusive jurisdiction of the State government like the appointment of Prosecutors. The only occasion when the Union Government can overrule the decision of the State government is when the Lt. Governor refers a matter to the President under the proviso to clause (4). But this proviso cannot totally override the executive decisions of the State government under clause (4).

The judgment of the Supreme Court resolves this apparent contradiction by enjoining the Lt. Governor to keep in mind while making a reference to the President the constitutional morality, principles of collaborative federalism, concept of constitutional governance, objectivity, etc. Although the Court did not specify the matters which can be referred by the Lt. Governor to the President, the high principles described above broadly indicate what can be referred and what cannot. In any case it is unambiguously clear that the executive decisions of the State government cannot be referred to the President merely because the Lt. Governor has a different personal opinion about some of them. The top court wants the Lt. Governor and the Council of Ministers to use in full the mechanism provided in the Government of NCT of Delhi Act and the Transaction of Business Rules to thrash out differences. The Court seems to elevate to a higher level the issues that can be referred to the President as distinct from the normal decisions taken in exercise of the executive powers of the State. The President is the highest Constitutional authority and his decision should be sought only on constitutionally important issues.

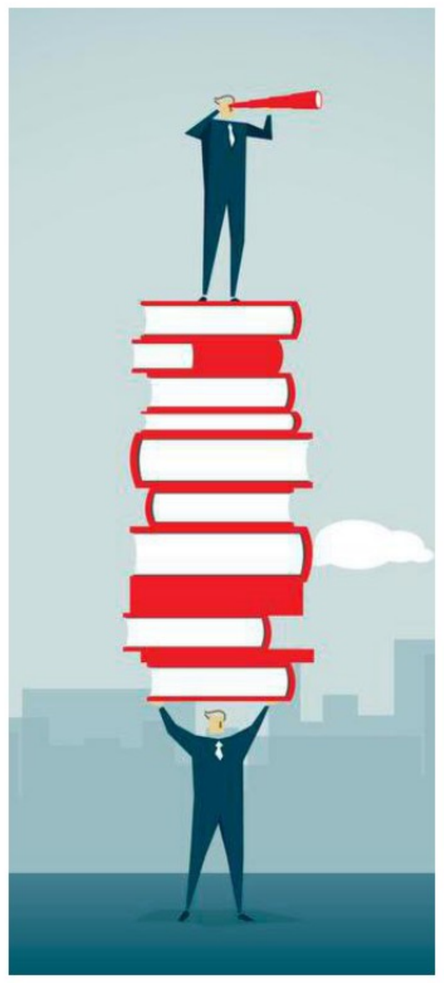
The last word

Finally, the Supreme Court gives wise advice to the Lt. Governor: "We may reiterate that the Constitutional scheme adopted for the NCT of Delhi conceives of the Council of Ministers as the representatives of the people on the one hand and the Lt. Governor as the nominee of the President on the other who are required to function in harmony within the Constitutional parameters. In the said scheme of things, the Lt. Governor should not emerge as an adversary having a hostile attitude towards the Council of Ministers of Delhi; rather, he should act as a facilitator."

So, when we analyse the reference by the Lt. Governor to the President the issue of appointment of prosecutors within the parameters laid down by the Supreme Court, we find that it is not in consonance with these principles enunciated by the Court. It is against constitutional morality which requires strict adherence to the constitutional principles of collaborative federalism, constitutional balance and the concept of constitutional governance. All these principles act as bulwark against the usurpation of powers of the State by the Union.

When the Court declares the law and requires the constitutional authorities to follow it, they have to act in compliance and not in defiance.

P.D.T. Achary is Former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. L. Krishnaswami Bharati, former MP, Nayinaragaram, Tamil Nadu, wants to know which of the two is correct: (a) Congratulations on your editorial (b) Congratulations for your editorial."

"(a) is correct.

Hearty congratulations on your success in the examination."

"Mr. P. N. Siva Swamy, RDO, Syndicate Bank, Chandauri, Moradabad, UP, wants to know whether it is all right to say 'He is tops in the class.'"

"It should be 'He is the tops in the class.' 'Tops' is used as an adjective in informal contexts and it means 'topmost in quality, ability, popularity or eminence.'

He is the tops in his field.

When used as an adjective, 'tops' is preceded by 'the.'"

"Mr. A. V. Rao, Andhra Bank, Vuyyuru, Krishna District, wants to know the meaning of 'Otorhinolaryngology.' The word was found in one of the articles in *The Hindu*."

"It is a medical term meaning 'a branch of medicine dealing with the ear, nose and throat.'"

"Mr. V. Sivanandam, retired Tahsildar, D-57, 8 Cross Road, Thillainagar, Tiruchi, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'frisson'."

"'Frisson' means 'emotional thrill.'

When she heard the news, it sent a frisson through her.

It is pronounced 'freesawn.' The stress is on the first syllable."

"Mr. S. Khadar Basha, 8-15-73, Wynchipet, Vijayawada, wants to know the meaning and use of 'gung-ho.'"

"'Gung-ho' means 'enthusiastic,' 'eager.'

I don't know whether he is as gung-ho as he would like us to believe.

They were very gung-ho about the project.

'Gung-ho' is from Chinese 'kung-ho' or 'gong-he' meaning 'work together.' It was adopted in 1942 by the U.S. Marines in China. This is what the Marine Corps General Evans Carlson said about the origin of the word: "I told my men of the motto of the Chinese Cooperatives. Gung-ho. It means work together. My motto caught on and they began to call themselves the Gung-ho battalion." This is how it was introduced and the word in English now means 'eager', 'enthusiastic'. 'gung' rhymes with 'tongue,' 'ho' rhymes with 'toe.'"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

In May 1994, Pulp Fiction premiered at the Cannes film festival and took home the coveted Palme d'Or. Here is a quiz on the Tarantino masterpiece

Abhinaya. K

QUESTION 1

The legendary director played a minor character in the movie, who helps Vincent Vega and Jules Winnfield with the Bonnie situation. Name the character.

QUESTION 2

At the Jack Rabbit Slim's, the restaurant where the iconic twist scene happens, there are many waiters/waitresses dressed as 50s stars. James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Buddy Holly, Mamie Van Doren, Grace Kelly. Who is the odd one in this list?

QUESTION 3

The mysterious Mia Wallace speaks of her failed pilot to Vega. She says it was a show about a team of female agents. Her character was a knife specialist. Name the show.

QUESTION 4

What code does Vega put in to open the briefcase in the movie?

QUESTION 5

The Bible verse that Jules recites makes an appearance in a movie from the Marvel cinematic universe. Name the movie.

QUESTION 6

Who wrote the song 'Girl, You'll Be a Woman Soon', which was performed for the movie by the rock band Urge Overkill?

Visual question:
How many Oscars was Pulp Fiction nominated for and how many did it win? This actor received his only Oscar nomination for this film. Name him. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This infectious disease finds mention in the Bible, and in the novel *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. **Ans: Leprosy**

2. This piece of personal protective equipment worn by firefighters and workers in toxic environments originated during the Manchurian epidemic. **Ans: Hazmat suits**

3. A team of researchers discovered pseudomonas bacteria with genes that give them natural antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance in this region. **Ans: Antarctica**

4. After exposure to the infection, once symptoms appear, this disease is near fatal. **Ans: Rabies**

5. In the summer of 1995, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and two of his medical colleagues landed up at Dantewada to study this neglected tropical disease they heard had sprung up in the area. **Ans: Yaws**

Visual: The Google Doodle of March 10, 2021, celebrated the 142nd birthday of this Chinese epidemiologist who invented this. **Ans: Dr. Wu Lien-teh; surgical mask**

Early Bird: Jahnavi Taak

Word of the day

Crabby:
annoyed and irritable

Synonyms: grouchy, grumpy, ill-tempered, bad-tempered, fussy, cross

Usage: *He has been crabby since the morning.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/crabbypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈkɹæb.i/

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M BG-BGE

Turnout in Assembly elections at 73.19% is a historic high for State

Record polling was registered despite a dismal show in Bengaluru, say Election Commission officials; 79 constituencies out of the total 224 reported a turnout between 80% and 90%

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Exercising their right: People at a polling station in Nelamangala taluk of Bengaluru Rural district. AFP

Karnataka's voter turnout in the Legislative Assembly elections on Wednesday reached a historic high of 73.19 % – and is expected to go up further – despite a continued dismal show in Bengaluru, Election Commission officials said on Thursday.

In Bengaluru, the voter turnout was 55%, a little higher than 54.6% recorded in 2018. At least three lakh postal ballots and vote-from-home ballots are to be added to the figure which is likely to increase the voter turnout, officials said. This time, those aged above 80 and persons with disabilities had the option of voting from home.

Steady increase

While Karnataka's historic low was in 1957 when the turnout was 51.3% (figures for 1952 are not available on the ECI website), the turnout since the 2013 elections has been improving with 71.83% and 72.44% recorded in 2013 and 2018, respectively. The only other time the turnout was higher than 70% in Karnataka was in 1978 at 71.9%.

According to the statistics released by the commission on Thursday, of the 5,30,85,566 electors in the State, 3,88,51,807 cast their votes. As much as 73.68% or 1,96,58,398 out of the total 2,66,82,156 male voters cast their vote. Among 2,63,98,483 female electors, 1,91,92,372 or about 72.7% exercised their franchise. Just about 21.05% or 1,037 other gender votes, out of the total 4,927, were cast.

Dip since 2018

Despite the increase in the overall voting percentage, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Chitradurga, Hassan, Kodagu, Kolar, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts have reported a dip when compared with 2018. The highest dip has been reported in Dakshin Kannada (-1.89%) and Chamarajanagar (-1.46%). Among those districts that have improved from the last elections are Raichur (4.04%), Davangere (2.45%), and Dharwda (2.11 %).

Bengaluru Rural, Chamarajanagar, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Hassan, Haveri, Kolar, Mandya, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru districts have clocked over 80% turnout.

Around Bengaluru

In stark contrast to the Bengaluru's voting pattern, districts in its vicinity have polled well. Chickballapur district reported the highest turnout in the State at 85.56%, followed by Bengaluru Rural (85.08%), Ramanagara (85.04%), Mandya (84.45%), and Tumakuru (83.58%).

As many as 79 constituencies out of the total 224 constituencies have reported a turnout between 80% and 90%. Melkote Assembly constituency in Mandya and Hoskote constituency in Bengaluru Rural clocked the highest at 91% and 90.95%, respectively, followed by Malur in Kolar at 89.17%.

Three below 50%

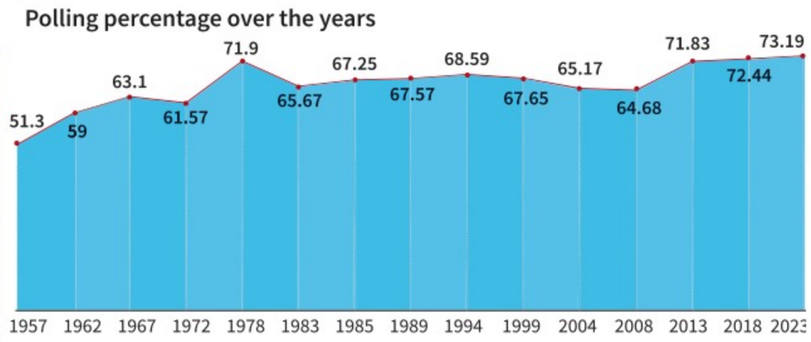
In contrast, Bengaluru (55%), Kalaburagi (66.43%), and Yadgir (68.77%) districts remained at the bottom. Three constituencies in Bengaluru recorded the lowest voter turnout with Bommanahalli (47.36 %) poling the least, followed by C.V. Raman Nagar (47.44%) and BTM Layout (48.84%), respectively. Incidentally, only these three constituencies reported polling less than 50%. A total of 28 constituencies polled less than 60%.

Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections and voter turnout

District-wise break-up

	2023	2018	% of change
Bagalkot	75.92	75.3	0.62
Bengaluru	55	54.69	0.31
Bengaluru Rural	85.08	84.38	0.7
Belagavi	76.95	76.16	0.79
Ballari & Vijayanagara	77.12	75.2	1.92
Bidar	71.59	68.17	3.42
Vijayapura	71.34	69.9	1.44
Chamarajanagar	81.48	82.94	-1.46
Chickballapur	85.56	84.8	0.76
Chikkamagaluru	78.3	78.82	-0.52
Chitradurga	81.18	81.31	-0.13
Dakshina Kannada	76.25	78.14	-1.89
Davangere	78.12	75.67	2.45
Dharwad	73.45	71.34	2.11
Gadag	75.61	75.34	0.27
Kalaburagi	66.43	63.73	2.7
Hassan	81.73	82.07	-0.34
Haveri	81.5	80.85	0.65
Kodagu	74.73	75.25	-0.52
Kolar	81.75	82.21	-0.46
Koppal	77.81	76.6	1.21
Mandya	84.45	83.25	1.2
Mysuru	75.12	74.51	0.61
Raichur	70.03	65.99	4.04
Ramanagara	85.04	84.97	0.07
Shivamogga	79.15	78.54	0.61
Tumakuru	83.58	82.43	1.15
Udupi	78.57	79.33	-0.76
Uttara Kannada	77.92	78.51	-0.59
Yadgir	68.77	66.17	2.6

Polling percentage over the years



2023 Assembly elections

Number of electors in the State	5,30,85,566	
Votes polled	3,88,51,807	73.19%
Number of male electors	2,63,98,483	
Total votes	1,96,58,398	73.68%
Number of female electors	2,63,98,483	
Total votes	1,91,92,372	72.7%
Number of other gender electors	4,927	
Total votes	1,037	21.05%

Highest polling constituencies

Melkote	91%
Hoskote	90.95%
Malur	89.17%

Lowest polling constituencies

Bommanahalli	47.36%
C.V. Raman Nagar	47.44%
BTM Layout	48.84%

Two constituencies polled over **90%**

Three constituencies polled below **50%**

79 constituencies polled between **80%** and **90%**

28 constituencies polled below **60%**

Kalyana Karnataka sees an increase in voter turnout; Coastal Karnataka is the only region to see a dip

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

While most of the regions of Karnataka saw a marginal increase in voter turnout on Wednesday when compared with the 2018 figures, Kalyana Karnataka region saw the biggest spike by 2.6 percentage points and Coastal Karnataka saw a dip by 1.21 percentage points – the only region to register the trend.

All seven districts in Kalyana Karnataka saw an increase in the turnout, with Raichur seeing the highest in the State by 4.04 percentage points, and all three districts in Coastal Karnataka saw a dip, with Dakshina Kannada seeing the largest dip in the State by 1.89 percentage points.

Factors in KK region

Given that the Kalyana Karnataka region is the stronghold of the Congress and Coastal Karnataka of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), speculations are rife as to how the turnout in these regions would impact these national parties.

Region-wise turnout (in %)

	2023	2018	Voting change (% points)
Bengaluru	55.00	54.60	0.40
Coastal Karnataka	77.34	78.55	-1.21
KalyanKarnataka	71.80	69.17	2.63
Kittur and Central Karnataka	76.50	75.53	0.97
South Karnataka and Malnad	81.11	80.79	0.32

Many political analysts and even sources in the BJP, seem to think that the higher voter turnout in the Kalyana Karnataka region would be advantageous to the Congress.

"Most exit polls suggest the Congress is doing pretty well in this region and M. Mallikarjun Kharge, who hails from Kalaburagi, becoming the AICC president is a factor here. The higher voter turnout in this region will likely be good news to the Congress," said Sandeep Shastri, psephologist heading the Lokniti Network.

While concurring with this view, political scientist Muzaffar Assadi added that the increase in turnout in Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka (0.97 percentage points) which make the Lingayat belt, taken together, may indicate the "hurt psyche" of Lingayats. "The perceived sidelining of B.S. Yediyurappa, Jagadish Shettar, Laxman Savadi, and the Panchamasali agitation seems to have hurt the psyche of Lingayats. We need to see how this plays out in the results," he said.

Meanwhile, a dip in voter turnout in Coastal Karnataka, is said to be a reflection of "committed BJP voter's anger" towards the party.

"We have a committed ideological vote base in the region. If they are unhappy with the party, they abstain, but never come out and vote against us, for any secular parties. A dip in the turnout in the coastal region could mean our voters have not come to the booths in larger numbers. This is usually bad news for the party's prospects," a senior BJP strategist in the State speculated.

The converse is also true. For instance, the Congress had swept the region winning 13 seats in 2013, reducing the BJP to only three seats, out of a total of 19 seats. In 2018, all three districts saw a spike in turnout in the range of 2.68 to 4.31 percentage points, compared with 2013, causing the BJP to sweep the region by winning 16 of 19 seats. "The dip this time is not as big as the spike in 2018 when compared with 2013. Though we may lose a few seats, it won't be a dramatic loss," the senior strategist said.

"The internal contradictions within the Hindutva proponents have come to the fore this time and several castes have been demanding a better share of power," said Prof. Assadi. This is a region where BJP workers publicly expressed their anger at BJP leaders following the murder of party worker Praveen Nettaru. The party changed six incumbent MLAs, the highest in any region.

Kumaraswamy flies to Singapore for medical tests; to return tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) H.D. Kumaraswamy left for Singapore late on Wednesday night for medical tests.

Sources close to him said that since he had been travelling quite extensively in the last six to seven months across the State for campaigning and Pancharatna Yatra, he had been advised to undergo medical tests. He would return to Bengaluru on Saturday morning before the counting commences, sources added.

Deve Gowda spoke to the party candidates and took feedback from them

In the absence of Mr. Kumaraswamy, the former Prime Minister and party supremo H.D. Deve Gowda spoke to the party candidates on Thursday. He took feedback from the candidates and also provided specific advice to them, party sources said. On Wednesday, even as voting was on, Mr. Kumaraswamy had said his party was expected to "take a hit" in up to 25 Assembly seats where it had chances of winning, due to a "financial crunch". The JD(S) is fighting to guard its turf of Old Mysore region in this election.

DKS, Siddaramaiah exude confidence, hold meetings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seeking blessings: KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and his brother D.K. Suresh, MP, with their mother at Kanakapura on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Despite the prediction of a fractured mandate by some exit polls, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar is confident of securing a comfortable majority for the party.

On Thursday morning, he sought the blessings of his mother, Gowramma, and had breakfast with his close loyalists at a popular eatery in Kanakapura. Later, he arrived in Bengaluru to participate in party meetings.

On Wednesday, after polling, he exuded confidence about a comfortable majority and said there was no question of a tie-up with the Janata Dal (Secular) since there would not be a fractured mandate.

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah arrived in Bengaluru and was involved in a conversation with his loyalists about the possible poll outcome.

AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge too spent a day at his home in Bengaluru and was involved in talking to various leaders over telephone, discussing possible outcomes. After a hectic poll campaign for over a month, sources said many candidates and leaders spent their time with family members.

Exit polls will be proved wrong and BJP will get majority, say top leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stung by the exit polls that have projected an edge to the Opposition Congress, BJP State leaders have maintained that the exit polls will be proved wrong when votes polled in the Karnataka Assembly elections are counted on Saturday.

Leading the party's defence, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who has contested from Shiggaon, told media persons in Shiggaon on Thursday that even in the 2018 Assembly elections, the surveys had indicated that the Congress would get 107 seats. But the final results were completely different then, he pointed out, while expressing confidence that a similar thing would happen now too.

He said the BJP was particularly helped by the rigorous campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed confidence that the party would get a majority. He, however, declined to respond to queries on the possibility of Karnataka witnessing a hung Assembly.

Pilgrimage centre: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai visited Savadatti Yellamma temple along with his family members in Belagavi district on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Chief Minister visited Savadatti Yellamma temple along with family members and offered puja.

Echoing similar sentiments, BJP State Election Management Committee convener Shobha Karandlaje told a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday that the exit polls would be proved wrong and that the BJP was sure to form its government in Karnataka.

"My confidence comes from the ground-level situation that was marked by the enthusiastic support of people to the BJP and also the ground-level reports by our party workers," she said.

"According to reports by our party workers, we are leading in 120 to 125 Assembly seats of the total 224. As per their report, we are bound to form our government," she maintained.

Pointing out that BJP veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa had expressed confidence about the party winning over 120 seats, she said Mr. Yediyurappa's predictions would not go wrong.

She also expressed confidence that the people of the State would provide a decisive mandate to the BJP to ensure the State's development.

She thanked the voters of the districts which saw more than 80% polling. Expressing concern over the polling percentage remaining poor in Bengaluru, she said the party would also join efforts by various authorities to enthuse people to vote.

Never spoke of 150 seats, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday clarified that he had never said the BJP would 150 seats, but expects the party to get a clear majority.

Speaking to mediapersons in Hubballi, he refused to respond to questions on the possibility of a hung Assembly, but insisted the BJP would get a clear majority.

Terming the campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a plus point for the BJP, he said, "Modi*ji*'s campaign boosted our prospects. Women and youths voted for the BJP. We are confident of coming back to power with a clear majority." On his constituency, he said he was indebted to the love and affection showered upon him by the people of Shiggaon. "They celebrated the election like a festival. I will win by a huge margin.".

Kidnapped eight years ago, T.N. boy reunited with parents

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

Aaron was just a month-old baby when a woman kidnapped him in Chennai on November 29, 2014. The police couldn't trace him and the child grew with his kidnapper until she got arrested in a murder case in 2017. Thereafter, he was raised in a child care home and as luck would have it, he has been reunited with his parents now at the age of eight.

A. John Jabaraj, 35, a goods vehicle driver from Ayanavaram in Chennai, got married to J. Tamilarasi in 2013 and Aaron was their first child born on October 28, 2014. They had taken the month-old baby for vaccination to a government hospital where the kidnapper S. Devi got acquainted with them.

Since the couple was residing in Tirumullaivoyal, the kidnapper woman visited their house in the guise of seeking help in locating a house on rent near their residence. And when Mr. Jabaraj had gone out for work and his wife had been to a nearby teashop, the woman slipped away with the baby.

The Tirumullaivoyal police closed the 'baby missing case' on October 10, 2015 since they were unable to trace the child even after a year despite best efforts. The couple too lost all hopes of finding him. Tamilarasi gave birth to their second son on December 15, 2015 and a baby girl on January 25, 2018.

"However, I spotted the kidnapper at Anna Nagar in Chennai on August 5, 2022. I followed her, shot a video and called the police by dialling 100 but she escaped by the time they could reach the spot," says Mr. Jabaraj.

He then approached the Tirumullaivoyal police who reopened the 2014 baby missing case.

He also petitioned the Chief Minister's grievance redressal cell which gave the much needed impetus to the case. The police accelerated the hunt using available clues and arrested the woman on February 2, 2023.

An inquiry with her revealed that she had handed over the child to the Villivakkam police in Chennai in 2017 when she was arrested in a murder case. As she did not reveal that he was kidnapped by her, the police had admitted the child in Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust at T. Nagar in Chennai.

Though she got acquitted from the murder case in 2021, she did not go in search of the child and the boy continued to grow at the child care home where he was named Aaron. He had now completed Class II. A DNA analysis performed in March this year confirmed the paternity of the child.

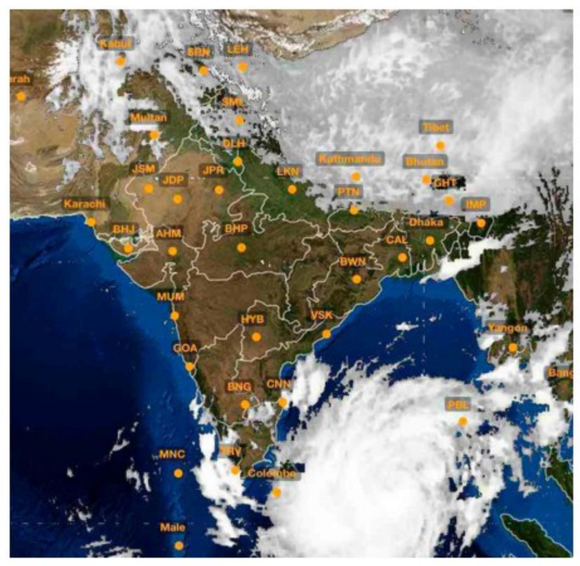
Immediately, the parents moved a habeas corpus petition in the Madras High Court, seeking his custody. Appearing before Justices Anita Sumanth and M. Nirmal Kumar, Additional Public Prosecutor S. Rajakumar said, it might not be in the interest of the child to shift him from the child care home immediately.

He suggested the child could be allowed to reside in the child care home for a few more months.

Finding justification in his suggestion, the Division Bench ordered that the parents could visit the child anytime and take him to their house at regular intervals. The court also decided to keep the case pending and monitor the progress.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Odisha, coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal and central Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	39.1	26.6	Kozhikode	13	36.4	26.2
Ahmedabad	—	43.7	25.0	Kurnool	—	39.6	28.7
Aizawl	—	30.0	18.9	Lucknow	—	38.2	19.8
Allahabad	—	40.7	15.1	Madurai	—	38.6	26.1
Bengaluru	—	33.4	23.6	Mangaluru	—	35.2	26.1
Bhopal	—	41.4	23.8	Mumbai	—	36.9	28.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.7	27.2	Mysuru	6	34.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	40.0	20.1	New Delhi	—	38.6	19.9
Chennai	—	36.6	27.4	Patna	—	40.8	22.4
Coimbatore	2	35.3	23.8	Port Blair	10	30.5	26.4
Dehradun	—	35.4	17.2	Puducherry	—	34.0	28.4
Gangtok	0.5	24.3	14.4	Pune	—	41.2	24.1
Goa	—	35.2	27.5	Raipur	—	40.4	25.1
Guwahati	0.8	35.5	21.3	Ranchi	—	38.4	22.8
Hubballi	—	35.0	24.0	Shillong	—	27.8	15.6
Hyderabad	—	36.8	26.8	Shimla	—	24.6	12.4
Imphal	—	35.6	19.7	Srinagar	—	27.0	6.8
Jaipur	—	40.7	23.2	Thiruvananthapuram	4	33.3	26.4
Kochi	0.4	32.6	27.4	Tiruchi	—	38.3	27.6
Kohima	2	30.5	17.1	Vijayawada	—	38.6	28.4
Kolkata	—	39.0	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.6	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	85	27	140	128	
Bengaluru	26	11	100	63	78	
Chennai	5	15	50	108	103	
Delhi	39	210	104	281	343	
Hyderabad	15	69	62	131	143	
Kolkata	24	17	24	58	58	
Lucknow	19	57	41	171	164	
Mumbai	38	87	110	203	124	
Pune	107	164	117	181	115	
Visakhapatnam	14	38	13	46	75	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 301 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'BJP distributed money as it feared losing polls'

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who quit the BJP and contested elections on Congress ticket, has alleged that for the fear of losing election in Hubballi-Dharwad Central Assembly segment, BJP leaders distributed money ranging from ₹500 to ₹1,000 in slums of the segment.

Speaking to presspersons at his residence on Thursday, Mr. Shettar said that he had trusted the people and sought votes based on the works he had done in the constituency. "I did not give anything to the voters. I have not distributed money in any of the elections I have faced so far. I have contested elections spending least money," he said.

Mr. Shettar said as per the exit polls, he would win from Central Assembly segment and Congress would come to power in the State.

Impact on electorate

To a query, he said that coordinated efforts by Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar in conveying effectively to the people the failures of BJP government had resulted in Congress reaching the stage of winning the elections. "The fact that BJP has meted out injustice to Lingayats has also made an impact on the electorate," he said.

Thennarasu gets Finance; PTR given IT & Digital Services

Industries portfolio will be handled by T.R.B. Rajaa, who was inducted into the Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a significant reshuffle of portfolios, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday divested Palanivel Thiaga Rajan of Finance and Human Resources Management and allocated them to senior Cabinet member Thangam Thennarasu. Mr. Rajan is the new Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services.

The Industries portfolio, hitherto held by Mr. Thennarasu, will be handled by T.R.B. Rajaa, who was inducted into the Cabinet earlier in the day. Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Rajaa, a three-time MLA from Mannargudi, in the presence of Mr. Stalin and others.

Governor R.N. Ravi greets T.R.B Rajaa after he was sworn in as Minister on Thursday. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin looks on. M. VEDHAN

However, contrary to speculation in a section of the media that the Chief Minister could overhaul his Cabinet, dropping some under-performing Ministers, the rejig was confined to changing a few portfolios.

An official release said that on the recommendation of the Chief Minister, Mr. Ravi has additionally allotted the Tamil Development portfolio (held by Mr. Thennarasu) to Information and Publicity Minister M.P. Saminathan.

T. Mano Thangaraj, who was till recently Information Technology Minister, will now handle the portfolio of Milk and Dairy Development.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

INVITING e-TENDER on Rolling Basis

Contract Name	Tender cum Auction for Licensing of Commercial Space Located Adjacent to Arumbakkam Metro Station
Contract No.	CMRL/BD-Arumbakkam-498/1/2023 -01
Documents downloaded from	12.05.2023 to 07.06.2023 up to 17:00 hrs through e-tendering website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**.
Pre Bid Meeting Date	19.05.2023 on 11:30 hrs at MetroS - Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.
Due Date of Bid Submission	07.06.2023 up to 17:00 hours (IST)
Date of Bid Opening	08.06.2023 at 17:05 hours (IST)

For complete details, please visit e-procurement website: **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**. The tender will continue in rolling basis. Prospective bidders are required to periodically check the e-procurement website to know the currently availability. Any Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on above mentioned website and will not be published in newspapers.

Tender inviting Authority:
Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited,
MetroS - Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.
www.chennaimetrorail.org. E-mail: **krishnan.rm@cmrl.in**

DIPR/2548/Tender/2023

Chief General Manager (P&BD), Chennai Metro Rail Limited

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்".

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sri. Papa Rao Saini S/o Late Saini Ramayya R/a No.11, 3rd Cross, Kempegowda Layout, Nageshwara Nagenahalli, Bangalore – 77 do here by solemnly affirm and state oath as that in my Passport my name is wrongly mentioned as Papa Rao Saine instead of Papa Rao Saini, my wife Surname wrongly mentioned as Parvathi Saine instead of **Parvathi Saini (Correct Name)** and my father's Surname as Ramayya Saine instead of **Ramayya Saini (Correct Name)** and my mother Surname mentioned as Yashodamma Saine instead of **Yashodamma Saini (Correct Name)** and all our names to be corrected only as mentioned above in all our future records, deeds, writings, proceedings, transactions private as well as upon all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit sworn before Advocate and Notary G. Dyananda on 11.05.2023.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NETAJI SUBHAS SOUTHERN CENTRE, BENGALURU

CORRIGENDUM

1. Reference to Advertisement dated.09/05/2023 the number of post for Lady Warden may be read as 02 posts instead of 01 post.
2. Due to administrative reasons the advertisement for the post of Young Professional (ARM) kept in abeyance.

Thus, the vacancy may be read as follows and other details remain the same.

SL. NO	POST	NUMBER OF POST	CATEGORY	MODE OF INTERVIEW
01	Lady Warden	02	UR	Walk in
02	Junior Consultant (Accounts / Finance)	01	UR	Online

The details of recruitment along with application form are available at SAI website i.e; **http://sportsauthorityofIndia.nic.in/** and **http://www.saibengaluru.com/**

SAI reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query, e-mail to **rcbengaluru.sai@gov.in** & **jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Regional Director Incharge
Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bengaluru

ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For hiring of Consultancy Services for acquisition of one Well Stimulation Vessel by ONGC for Indian offshore.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), is the flagship national integrated E&P Company of India (www.ongcindia.com). Well Stimulation Services (WSS), ONGC, India intends to acquire one custom built Well Stimulation Vessel with DP-2 / DP-3 system for its western / eastern offshore operations (both exploratory and Development) primarily in the western offshore, India in the Arabian Sea.

The interested firm having experiences of providing consultancy services for acquisition of well stimulation vessel may visit the website of ONGC '**tenders.ongc.co.in**' for details.

Interactive Discussions / Presentations:

The EOI meet shall be held on 6th June'23 at a suitable time based on the time zones of the respondents through offline physical / virtual meeting on digital media. Interested bidders are requested to convey their willingness to participate in the EOI meet along with the names and e-mail id of the participants on or before 2nd June'23 to send the link of invitation of joining the EOI meet to the following e-mail id.

Sh Priyanshu Vajpeyi, SE (P), WSS
E mail: vajpeyi_priyanshu@ongc.co.in

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

PRS GROUP

On the 33rd year of remembrance of our visionary founder, P Ratnaswamy, we pledge to continue to work in the interest of the communities we serve.

Sri. P. RATNASWAMY (PRS)
(1920-1990)
Founder: PRS Group, Trivandrum

Family members & staff of: PRS BUILDERS | PRS HOSPITAL KALYAN HOSPITAL | SWAGATH HOLIDAY RESORT | KALYAN SCHOOL PRS COLLEGE OF NURSING | PRS RETAIL

RFP FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
NIT No. HMDA/DEV/CE/03/2023-24
Dt: 08.05.2023

The Government of Telangana, through HMDA, is inviting bids towards Selection of Developers for

DEVELOPMENT OF AQUA MARINE PARK ON DBFOT BASIS

at Eco-Hill Park at Kothwalguda, Near Himayathsagar, Hyderabad.

The Bid particulars of the Project are as follows:

Name of the project	**Development of Aqua Marine Park** (Tunnel Aquarium) at Eco- Hill Park at Kothwalguda, near Himayathsagar, Hyderabad on DBFOT Mode
Last date for receipt of Pre-bid queries	**26.05.2023 by 14:00 Hrs** (IST) on superintendingengineerhmda@gmail.com with a copy to pppcell2.hmda@gmail.com
Date of pre-bid meeting	**29.05.2023 at 11:30 Hrs** (IST) in the O/o. CE, HMDA, 7th floor, East wing, Swarnajayanthi Complex, Ameerpet - 500038. The link for joining the pre-bid meeting will be provided on e- portal on 26.05.2023
Last date for submission of bids online	**21.06.2023 upto 15:00 Hrs** (IST) on website https://tender.telangana.gov.in

The complete bid document can be viewed/downloaded from the official portal of HMDA **www.hmda.gov.in** or e-procurement portal of Government of Telangana **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Bid must be submitted online only at **https://tender.telangana.gov.in.** Technical submission of the bids received online shall be opened on 21.06.2023 (at 15:30 hours IST).

Note:
Any amendments to the RFP and Bid process will be notified through e-tender portal only.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, HMDA.

Issued By: Spl. Commissioner I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

Ravikumar and Siloja belonging to the Hakki Pikki community fill herbal oil in bottles at Pakshirajapura colony in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Hakki Pikkis

Bird catchers to entrepreneurs of traditional medicine

Around 600 people from the Hakki Pikki tribe were stuck in Sudan, and almost everyone has returned home, according to Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority officials. Back from conflict-torn Sudan, people belonging to this tribe are not averse to going back

Darshan Devaiah B.P.

Karanthai, 23, an anganwadi teacher in Pakshirajapura, a colony for the nomadic tribe Hakki Pikki, six kilometres away from Hunsur town in Mysuru district, was cleaning fish for lunch in her house on a hot afternoon as she waited anxiously for almost 15 days for her mother, two brothers, and their wives who were stuck in violence-hit Sudan. They had travelled to Sudan around eight months ago to sell traditional medicine there, which is in huge demand. The family was on tenterhooks, stuck in a rented house with little food and water.

Her brother Manu, who was stuck in the conflict in the African country, said, "We thought we would die. Fortunately, we returned. We thank our people for their support and the government's help."

Back home to vote

A week ago, they returned home safely and even voted in the Karnataka State Assembly elections held on May 10, Wednesday. However, with huge sums taken as loans for travelling, and no avenue to earn to pay that back, many are willing to risk travelling to other African countries to try their luck.

Around 600 people from the Hakki Pikki tribe were stuck in Sudan, and almost everyone has returned home, according to Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) officials. They arrived back in the State after the Ministry of External Affairs launched Operation Kaveri on April 24 to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in conflict zones in Sudan safely.

Bird catchers to traditional medicines

Vani, 45, who recently returned from Sudan along with a group of 31, had been in Sudan for the past 10 months to sell traditional medicine, while many other members of the community have been travelling to African countries for the last 15 years.

> Earlier, we used to sell our products in markets in Mysuru and Bengaluru. Three years ago, we realised that online has great potential, and we could sell our products. Now, monthly, we get revenue in lakhs.
>
> **MOKSHA,** entrepreneur

The herbal oil prepared and sold by members of the Hakki Pikki community. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

There are two colonies dedicated to the Hakki Pikki community in Hunsur, which was established by the Karnataka government in 1958. Around 1,500 people live in this colony, and their main business is the production of various traditional oils and medicines, which according to them are in huge demand across the country.

Hakki Pikkis (bird catchers) are a semi-nomadic tribe that travelled to Karnataka from parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan at least 100 years ago and were into bird catching and hunting. However, in the last 20 years, they have started to prepare traditional medicines, especially hair oils, which they sell to various parts of the country and also ship abroad. The community left bird catching and hunting after it was outlawed under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

Speaking to *The Hindu* at his house in Pakshirajapura, P.S. Nanjunda Swamy, State president of the Karnataka Adivasi Budakattu Hakki Pikki Sangha, said, "My ancestors came from various parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan. We first settled in Hyderabad for some time and later moved to Bengaluru and then to Mysuru in the 1950s, where the government gave us this colony to settle down. Now, there are around 11,800 members in our community settled in Davangere, Bannerghatta in Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Shivamogga."

"Life-changing medicine"

The community members belong to the Scheduled Tribes and speak Vaagri Booli, which is an Indo-Aryan language. This language is used only in their house, and outside they speak Kannada. A few people from the community went to neighbouring Kerala and learnt the preparation of traditional medicine and started to prepare it. In this, the hair oil made of various herbs available in the forest has changed the life of the community, particularly in Pakshirajapura.

Pakshirajapura, which once had only small houses, now has several modern houses and high-end cars. Most houses have mini production centres to produce traditional medicine. The members of the community say that all this was possible because of going to African countries.

One of the shops selling herbal oils near Pakshirajapura Colony. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

A house at Pakshirajapura Colony which was built for members of the Hakki Pikki community by the government in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Financial problems

However, Mr. Nanjunda Swamy said, "Many in our community have prospered, but they have taken a lot of loans. The other issue our community faces is that many educated young boys don't want to take up government or private jobs. They discontinue their studies and get into this business taking loans, and if it doesn't work, they suffer." During this conversation, Maitriya, 65, who was in a petty shop close by, jumped in and said that her son took a loan too and got into the traditional medicine business and suffered a loss. Now, he has opened a tea stall that is also under loss, she said. The contrast is clear: while some from the community have become rich, others who tried the traditional medicine business and experienced severe loss are living in small houses in the colony. Apart from traditional medicines, the community also sells and manufactures small daily-use products and ornaments like copper rings and chains, toys made of wood and sell bird feathers.

Social media and online platforms

But the success stories from the traditional medicine business, especially hair oil, are big. Prerana, 45 and her daughter Moksha, 22, have started selling hair growth oil on online marketplaces, even advertising on social media to get more customers. The mother-daughter duo have all the equipment for production and laptops and packaging materials to sell their products online. They both point to their own long hair, claiming to have reaped the benefits of the hair oil. Moksha gets at least 15 to 20 calls daily asking about the product as well as sales. While she was speaking to *The Hindu*, she received one such call from a customer in North India. "Earlier, we used to sell our products in markets here in Mysuru and Bengaluru. Three years ago, we realised hat online has great potential, and we could sell our products. Now, monthly, we get revenue in lakhs," Moksha added. Mr. Nanjunda Swamy said that the community members got to know about the demand for traditional medicine in African countries from a few travel agents in Mysuru. "For the last 10 years, many have travelled to African countries. They take raw materials in cargo flights and prepare oil and medicine and sell them to people there. Our people stay there for a year and return with a profit, but sometimes they suffer a loss too. They go under many challenges, like in this Sudan," he added.

In and around Mysuru

Meanwhile, many in this community sell their traditional medicines on the main roads in and around Mysuru. People commuting on Hunsur-Nagarahole road can see many small shops named 'Mysore jungle Adivasi herbal hair oil' with claims of the oil being made from secret traditional methods. Chandini, one of the shop owners on Nagarahole Road, said, "All these ingredients are sourced from the forest and manufactured using secret methods. There is a huge demand locally, and we make at least ₹5,000 daily by selling this oil. Tourists going to Kodagu and Nagarahole buy our traditional oils."

Another woman from the community, Saroja, said that one 750ml bottle of hair oil cost ₹1,500 and the massage oil costs ₹1,000 to ₹2,500.

'Shift us to other countries'

However, the profit they make abroad is incomparable. This was clear when amid Operation Kaveri to rescue Indians stuck in Sudan, family members of the stranded Hakki Pikki community in Hunsur said that they didn't want the members stuck in that country to come back to India; rather, they wanted them to be shifted to the neighbouring countries so they can continue to sell their products and make a profit and return as all of them have taken loans.

Managala, a Hakki Pikki member in Hunsur, said, "They have taken a lot of credit running into lakhs of rupees from various sources, and went to Sudan a few months back with all the raw materials for the traditional medicines. Now, due to the conflict, all are coming back. Now we are worried about how we can repay the loan we have taken."

Subhas, whose brother was stuck in Sudan, said that his brother's family had taken ₹10 lakh loan and went to Sudan. "All these loans are taken from a few residents out of the colony. Now they have to return it to the lenders. How can we do it? We all hoped that they would do business of at least ₹20 to ₹30 lakh and return with good profit."

In fear, without food and water

Those who returned home recalled the nightmares they lived. Shivananda and his wife, from the Hakki Pikki tribe, had been stuck in the city of El-Fasher for more than 20 days after the conflict started, where they had to face hardship, living in fear and without proper food and water. He had been in Sudan for the last 10 months to sell traditional medicine.

"The day the conflict started, we moved to El-Fasher and started to live in a small rented house along with 40 other persons. We heard a firing outside and lived in fear. Parts of our house were damaged, and a bullet made a hole in a wall during the crossfire. We were not able to go out due to continuous gunfire and shelling. Hence, we didn't have enough to eat for days," Shivananada said, now back safely.

Nanda Kumar, another Sudan returnee, said, "There was no access to food or drinking water for four days until April 16, and somehow the firing stopped for a day, and we managed to get some ration when one shop in the locality opened for some time. After this, we got information that India was rescuing us, and we hopped into a bus and travelled to Port Sudan for a whole day. From there, we were rescued by the Indian government. We were in a very bad situation and had all doubts that we would be able to meet our family here."

Tales in stone, brick and mortar Nicolaus Schmidt (below right) has documented iconic structures such as the Jantar Mantar in Delhi (below) and the work on the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai (right). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

History through the lens

India Tecton, a photo exhibition that will be held in the city between May 14 and 27 presents a complex, multi-faceted, diverse history of India through its architecture

Preeti Zachariah
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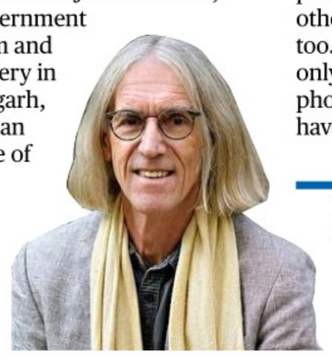
When Nicolaus Schmidt first travelled to India in 2011, as part of another project, he found himself stopping over at the Karla Caves near Lonavala, Maharashtra. "It was really magical," says the Berlin-based photographer, over a video call, recalling the grandeur of these ancient rock-cut caves he photographed that day. Over the next decade or so, Schmidt continued to visit India, on multiple occasions, travelling across its length and breadth, into its big cities and rural territories to unearth "all these amazing Indian relics of history," says Schmidt, the founder of *Rosa*, one of the first German magazines of the gay rights movement.

What has emerged from all those years of work is *India Tecton*, a photo exhibition that will be held in the city, between May 14 and 27 that presents a complex, multi-faceted, diverse history of India through its architecture. "It is a very old, layered history," points out Schmidt, adding that the exhibition, was first shown at the India International Centre, New Delhi, in November last year.

Accompanying the exhibition, is Schmidt's book of the same name, *India Tecton*, which was released in May 2022, containing 191 highly-focussed photographs over 256 pages that chronicle this history.

"There have been lots of religions and cultures here. You have the influence of British colonial times, modern buildings after liberation and many famous international architects were invited here," says Schmidt, listing some of the places he visited for this project. These include Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the Government Museum and Art Gallery in Chandigarh, the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad designed by Louis Kahn, the Padmanabhapuram Palace in Kanyakumari and the Victoria Terminus in Mumbai.



Some of the buildings in this project include Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the Government Museum and Art Gallery in Chandigarh, IIM Ahmedabad designed by Louis Kahn, Kanyakumari's Padmanabhapuram Palace and the Victoria Terminus in Mumbai

Schmidt will also conduct a five-day photography workshop at the Museum of Art and Photography, between May 15 and 19, titled *Photography: Ideas and Design Tools*. According to the MAP website, Schmidt will break down photographic concepts and introduce participants to working methods in the medium, followed by practice sessions in the environs and neighbourhood of the museum. The workshop will culminate in the production of prints from these engagements and a sharing and showcase of the same, continues the website, adding that while no prior experience in photography is needed, one needs a camera with aperture settings to attend the workshop.

Talking about the workshop, which will begin with a guided tour of his exhibition at the Goethe-Institut, Schmidt says he plans to show photographs by other famous photographers, too. "I want to show there is not only one way to make a good photo but a thousand ways. You have to choose your own."

India Tecton *will be showcased at the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore between May 14 and 27 from 10am to 6pm. For details, visit the goethe.de/bangalore*

STEPOUT

The buzz at Atta Galatta

There will be a stand up comedy act — Gainfully Employed — featuring Punit Pania this weekend. It is open to people aged 16 years and above and tickets, priced at ₹399, are available on BookMyShow.
On May 13, 6pm at Atta Galatta.
Be a part of a textured art workshop called Coffee Arches, which will be led by The Leo Studio. Fee is ₹1,500 and tickets are available on BookMyShow.
On May 13, 5pm
Coffee & Conversations is a group meet up, organised by Listeners Circle, which is an initiative to facilitate listening without judgment and provides a safe space for anyone to speak their heart out without the fear of being shamed. Book your tickets, ₹150, on BookMyShow.
On May 14, 11am.

All things Japan

The 19th annual Indo-Japanese cultural extravaganza, Japan Habba, is set to take place on May 13 and 14 at the National Science Seminar Complex at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
This year's theme, 'Rising from the Ashes', marks the event's return to an offline format after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.
The event features a Tech and Jobs Fair on May 13 with talks by industry professionals and a job fair. The cultural event on May 14 will offer a glimpse of Japanese culture through activities, contests and workshops on Chanoyu, Yukata, Ikebana and Origami apart from booths with Japanese food product. The event is supported by governmental agencies such as the Consulate-General of Japan in Bengaluru, Japan Foundation, and the Japan External Trade Organization.
Entry fee ₹100. Tickets on bookmyshow.com

Morality, majority

Supreme Court verdict is an indictment of how regime changed in Maharashtra

It often happens in litigation around political developments that judgments underscore high principles, but extend no relief to those impacted by breach of constitutional norms. The Supreme Court verdict on the political imbroglio in Maharashtra last year is one such. It is an indictment of the manner in which regime change was achieved, but it does not alter the status quo. A Constitution Bench has ruled that Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari had no objective material to doubt the majority of the then Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray, but had nevertheless asked him to take a floor test, based on extraneous factors. As Mr. Thackeray had resigned without facing the floor test, the Court said it was unable to restore his government. It is true that it cannot quash a voluntary resignation, but the Court fails to acknowledge that his resignation was forced by circumstances to which the Court itself was a party. On the eve of the floor test, a Supreme Court Bench allowed it to go on. Earlier, by an interim order, the Court had extended the time given to the then rebel Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde from June 27 to July 12 to reply to applications seeking their disqualification for defection. The order gave ample time to the dissidents, along with the BJP, to execute political manoeuvres without the threat of disqualification from the House. In effect, the two court orders helped in the toppling of the regime, a fact that the final verdict fails to acknowledge.

The Thackeray faction lost in the numbers game, a game in which time is of the essence for both rulers who need to protect their flock and dissidents who need to rope in enough defectors. Besides cautioning Governors against treating internal problems of a ruling party as a possible loss of majority, the Court has also clarified that whips and leaders of the party in the House ought to be appointed by the political party, and not the legislature party. This has a bearing on whose whip is binding on legislators in the event of a party splitting into two factions. It has also decided that the judgment in *Nabam Rebia* (2016), holding that a Speaker who is facing a notice for removal from office should not adjudicate a disqualification matter under the anti-defection law, should be reconsidered by a larger Bench. This is welcome, as legislators who have incurred disqualification should not be allowed to use a frivolous petition to remove the Speaker to ward off their own disqualification. Mr. Thackeray can now claim a moral victory, but in the domain of political coalitions, a legislative majority is seen as more important than morality.

Descent into chaos

Pakistan politicians are falling into Army's trap by attacking one another

The Pakistan Supreme Court's order to release former Prime Minister Imran Khan after calling his arrest "unlawful" is a blow to the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the military establishment that backs it. Mr. Khan was arrested on Tuesday from the Islamabad High Court, where he had appeared to seek bail in multiple corruption cases, by the paramilitary Rangers, on an order from the National Accountability Bureau, the anti-corruption watchdog. The arrest came a day after the military had warned him against making "baseless allegations" – that a senior military figure was involved in an attempt on his life in November 2022. Ever since he was ousted from power in April 2022, Mr. Khan has campaigned against the 13-party coalition government led by Mr. Sharif. He has demanded early parliamentary elections, due for October, organised massive rallies, and won back-to-back by-elections, proving his rising popularity. On the other side, the coalition government's approval rating has tanked amid mounting economic woes, but Mr. Sharif has refused to give in to Mr. Khan's demands.

The former cricketer-turned-politician, who came to power in 2018, had enjoyed warm links with the military for over three years. While in power, he hounded the then opposition politicians (now in government) and, according to his own words, the military had helped him stay in power amid political challenges. But after they fell out over key military appointments, Mr. Khan turned against the generals. The new government slapped case after case on him, deepening the political rift. The military, which has staged coups and ruled for more than half of Pakistan's existence, retains its influence. One of the reasons is that Pakistan's ruling parties typically work with the generals to neutralise their political opponents. The coalition government made the same mistake. The allegations against Mr. Khan should be probed but the way he was arrested, using the paramilitary forces, and the nationwide crackdown on his supporters that followed raised more questions, prompting the Supreme Court to wade in and order Mr. Khan's release. This crisis is unfolding at a time when Pakistan is undergoing one of its worst economic crises. Its foreign reserves are depleting, inflation hit a record 35% in April, the highest in South Asia, and the Pakistani rupee keeps falling. The country has also witnessed a rise in terror attacks by the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has been emboldened by the Taliban's return to power in neighbouring Afghanistan. The immediate priority for Pakistan's leaders should have been to address these critical challenges but they are busy fighting each other instead, further weakening the country's institutions and leaving its unelected power centres stronger.

The problem with India's multi-alignment stand

Vinay Kaura

is Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs and Security Studies, Sardar Patel University of Police, Security and Criminal Justice, Jodhpur, and a Non-resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute, Washington DC

China's recent mediation efforts to resolve the Ukraine crisis have once again spotlighted India's approach to conflict resolution. By holding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastward expansion responsible for instigating the war; by painting America as the biggest obstacle to ceasefire; by exploiting the differences among western countries regarding the extent of support to Ukraine; by further cementing the Beijing-Moscow relationship, and ensuring the survival of the Vladimir Putin regime, China has effectively positioned itself in opposition to the American approach. This is not how India views its role in resolving the conflict.

India has increasingly used varied symbolic instruments of power to enhance its soft power appeal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi now projects India as the "mother of democracies" and as a "moral force" to enforce global peace.

In sharp contrast to the Chinese President Xi Jinping's first outreach last month to the Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, since the Russian invasion, Mr. Modi has spoken to Mr. Zelenskyy many times. In October and December last year, Mr. Modi, in his telephonic conversation with Mr. Zelenskyy, had expressed India's solidarity with Ukraine while extending support for peace efforts. And in September, Mr. Modi had publicly told Mr. Putin that "today's era is not of war" – a remark that seemed to be a reprimand to Moscow. Even the U.S. Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, felt compelled to describe this widely-reported remark as "significant". Washington understands the importance of India's continuous engagement with Ukraine because that is an important way of bringing New Delhi's response to the Ukraine war into alignment with its own. The geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict are in many ways inter-connected.

The regular Modi-Zelenskyy interactions may be seen as underscoring India's rising stature and recognition of its unique position in the emerging global order, despite western criticism of India's continued energy imports from Russia and export of excess refined Russian fuel to the European market. During Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Emine Dzhaparova's recent visit to New Delhi, she remarked (in a widely reported tweet) that "India wants to be the Vishwaguru, the global teacher and arbiter. In our case, we've got a very clear picture: aggressor against innocent victim. Supporting Ukraine is the only right choice for true Vishwaguru." The hint here is that the 'Vishwa Guru' image that the government seeks for the country will remain imperfect if India refuses to take a strong moral position on Russia's violation of Ukraine's sovereignty.

> While it may have given New Delhi some diplomatic space as far as the war in Ukraine and the global stand are concerned, it may not be sufficient for India to try to play the role of a mediator between Russia and Ukraine

Nationalist ideas have always influenced the Indian state, contributing to their further proliferation in society and polity. The choice of the 'Vishwaguru' phrase by Ms. Dzhaparova is not accidental as it is at the core of the Modi government's nationalist foreign policy discourse. The contemporary salience of Vishwa Guru image, which builds on historical trends in India's political thought seeking to emphasise the distinctiveness of the country's cultural ethos and civilisational values, also highlights the unique nature of 'soft power' in foreign policy debates. Soft power is simultaneously ubiquitous and ambiguous, accepted as significant yet narrow in its policy impact. It should be understood as any other form of "nonmaterial" power which interacts with material resources or hard power, either enlarging their impact or making up for their absence.

Lack of hard power

That India lacks hard power has been acknowledged by Mohan Bhagwat, chief of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the 'ideological fountainhead' of India's ruling political dispensation. In a recent speech, he had said that if India had been adequately powerful, it would have stopped the Ukraine war. He argued that "Russia attacked Ukraine. It is being opposed. But nobody is ready ...to stop Russia because Russia has power and it threatens." Drawing a contrast with supposedly selfish global powers, Mr. Bhagwat asserted that "If India had such [material] power in its hands, then such an incident [Ukraine war] would not have come before the world." This narrative assumes that a powerful Indian civilisational state will stand for global peace and stability.

While New Delhi has expressed its disapproval of the Ukraine war, it has avoided taking a clear position in many UN resolutions on the issue. This may be understandable as India has often taken an evasive position on conflicts that involve its traditional allies. However, critics are not unreasonable in arguing that this ambiguity does not behove a nation aspiring to become a permanent member of the UNSC, which implies a commitment to speak as a global voice against territorial aggression and rights violations similar to what Russia has unleashed on Ukraine. Moreover, the normative pillars of the democratic, self-confident and morally superior Vishwa Guru identity cannot be identical to those underlying the cynical hegemon maximising its power at all costs, bereft of any morality.

While New Delhi's seemingly evasive position in the Ukraine war underlines India's traditional discomfort in viewing its national interests in binary terms as well as Russia's military and geopolitical importance for India's military preparedness, yet Russia's justifications for its military actions in Ukraine do not resonate among most of India's political elite. These justifications are sometimes parroted by China, including the latest unabashedly pro-Russian statement by the Chinese Ambassador in France regarding the legal status of the post-Soviet republics, with a view to reserving the right to use force against Taiwan. India has no such revisionist motives. India's views on sovereignty converges with a universally acceptable Westphalian notion and thus clash fundamentally with the communist China's political philosophy of 'might is right'.

Democracies enjoy legitimacy globally and this legitimacy can transpose an authoritarian ruler's use of force into violence against the population. Ukraine is seen as a victim which is resisting aggression from an authoritarian neighbour. The Modi-Zelenskyy interactions highlight the fact that such narratives engender Indian sympathies for the victimised target. Nevertheless, the Ukraine war alone is not sufficient to undermine India's historical ties with Russia, which is based as much on New Delhi's military dependence on Moscow as it is on the anti-colonial strand of India's strategic autonomy doctrine.

A pursuit of 'multi-alignment' may have given New Delhi some diplomatic space in the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, it may not be sufficient for India to try to play the role of a mediator between Russia and Ukraine. India currently lacks the material resources to match the extent of China's economic and military potential.

Through his charm offensive of a phoney peace diplomacy, Mr. Xi's primary aim is to discourage Mr. Zelenskyy to launch the much-discussed counteroffensive, so that Russia's dependency on China rises further. Driven by the 'sunk cost fallacy', Mr. Putin has unleashed forces that have already done immense damage to Russia's global standing and offended most of the democratic world. Thus the Modi government must ensure that India's refusal to condemn Russian belligerence and continued increase in the import of Russian fuel is not interpreted as a pro-Moscow approach. While India's ties with Russia are likely to be on a downward spiral, the piecemeal distancing from Russia will take a bit longer as New Delhi struggles to find some manoeuvring space in the emerging nexus between Russia and China.

Marriage for all, even if for a few

Rama Srinivasan

is an anthropologist and author of 'Courting Desire: Litigating for Love in North India'

In a reality show, "Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives", Sima Taparia of the series, "Indian Matchmaking", was asked about the possibility of matching for queer couples. Her careful reply was: she is not 'doing that' right now because it is not allowed in India and she will not commit to taking on queer clients when it is. Even as season three of her show dropped, the Supreme Court began hearing the case for marriage equality within the ambit of the Special Marriage Act. If the court rules in favour of expanding the definition of marriage beyond that of a union between biological men and women, Ms. Taparia's response leaves enough room for ambiguity - for legal rights do not automatically translate to social sanction, and this is exactly what the arguments in the courtroom and beyond illustrate.

A Bar Council of India resolution recently quoted a dubious survey on 99% of Indians being against marriage equality while more sober commentators argue that the society is not ready for what the petitioners seek. Should laws be a reflection of societal morality? Or should they push the envelope by making certain unions possible irrespective of social approval? This was one of the questions extensively debated in Parliament as part of the Special Marriage Bill itself.

Common threads

In parliamentary debate minutes, former Member of Parliament, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, features as one of the Bill's proponents. She predicted that the law would not have many immediate takers but that an emancipated next generation would demand the right to choose their partners. She conceived the civil union law as a calculated, rational decision where a freedom wilfully granted is better than a freedom that is 'taken' (LS Debates 1954, September 1, 812-816). Like other women representatives, she also believed that the proposed law could improve the lives of women.

> The Special Marriage Act may have fewer takers, but the law should hold out more potential than the current public imagination allows for and aim to improve the lives of the more marginalised

Despite some powerful backers, there was a perception among at least sections of the two Houses that allowing citizens to marry anyone of their choice could potentially lead to a collapse of society and civilisation. The Bill's divorce provisions, in particular, had raised fears of a proliferation of sexual desires; the question of queer unions was also briefly touched upon, with homophobic remarks. The other common thread that often resurfaces even today is that securing more rights and visibility for a plurality of identities and desires is, in some way, imposing the 'lifestyle' of a few on to a presumed majority that is not represented in these struggles. Former President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, had bitterly opposed the Hindu Code Bill in his private correspondence with Jawaharlal Nehru because he believed that the measure was forcing something on a vast majority, because some people – according to him, a small, likely microscopic minority – considered it a right.

Unlike that far-reaching reform Bill, expanding legal rights to the LGBTQI+ community is not directly relevant to those who do not identify as queer and can, in principle, disengage from the debate. And yet, as the reactions to the Court proceedings have shown, Indian polity and society still struggle with the idea of marriage reform and individual choice. Local and national politics have routinely witnessed campaigns against inter-caste and inter-community couples and the need for social sanction often triumphs the rights afforded under the Act through a bureaucracy that has become a reflection of social morality. However, as with the issue of the so-called love jihad campaigns, conversations emerging from the marriage equality case have spread awareness of the law and its unfortunate provisions, including the publication of a notice period that violates citizens' right to privacy.

Where the bureaucracy fails, vigilante groups have been empowered to prevent unions using extra-judicial methods and queer couples may, unfortunately, also face a similar predicament in future. The potential for an infringement of rights guaranteed by constitutional principles, the letter of the law and court judgments gets to the heart of how Indians define marriage and, perhaps, Ms. Taparia's show with its inherent casteism and sexism may indeed be representative; marriage is very much a social institution, invested in upholding hierarchies based on gender, caste and community. Apart from violence and intimidation, the control of non-state entities is exercised simply by withholding recognition for heterosexual and queer couples alike and legal sanction, however inadequate, may offer at least some relief.

Such a step will reaffirm rights as a whole

After almost 70 years, the Special Marriage Act still has fewer takers due to political campaigns, bureaucratic overreach and the general misconception that it only caters to inter-religious couples. And a study of this law's implementation discredits the doomsday predictions of those who continue to oppose marriage reform. Social transformations are not easy and laws, in a vacuum, are unlikely to disrupt the lives of 'vast majorities'. Some citizens may not be prepared for marriage equality, just as some are not open to inter-caste and inter-community marriages but, as Pandit had argued in 1954, the law should hold out more potential than the public imagination allows for and should be aimed at improving the lives of the more marginalised. Affording rights to a sexual minority – even if it is a minority – reaffirms the rights of the citizenry as a whole.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Where Taiwan stands

The article, "The 'right to health' goal and a role for Taiwan" (Editorial page, May 10), mixes up concepts of "Taiwan's participation in WHO". To begin with, Taiwan is not eligible. The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations, restricted to only sovereign states. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China — a fact that is recognised in a UN resolution and also universal consensus by the international community. The Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legitimate government representing the whole of China.

On "Taiwan's participation in WHO", China has clearly stated its position a number of times, which is that any questions about Taiwan's participation in international organisations must be arranged under the one-China principle. However, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has been stubbornly adhering to a "Taiwan independence" separatist stance, and has refused to acknowledge the 1992 Consensus that embodies the one-China principle, thus undermining the political foundation for the region's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA).

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, DPP authorities in Taiwan have been involved in political manoeuvres and attempting to hype "Taiwan's participation in WHO" and the WHA. The intent is to solicit foreign support and seek independence under the pretext of the pandemic. China's central government cares about the health and well-being of the Taiwanese people. According to the agreement between China and WHO for Taiwan's participation in global health affairs, in accordance with the one-China principle, there are no obstacles to technical cooperation between the Taiwan region, China and WHO.

Medical professionals in Taiwan can participate in WHO technical activities. These arrangements ensure that the Taiwan region can handle public health emergencies in a timely and effective manner. The channels for Taiwan to obtain information and participate in the international COVID-19 response are unimpeded.

Wang Xiaojian,
Press Counsellor,
Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in India

Railways, diesel purchase

The heading of a report, "Scam exposed in purchase of diesel by Railways from national oil companies" (Inside pages, May 8), is misleading. It is not at all a "scam". Transactions between the Railways and public sector oil companies are an ongoing process of payment and recovery adjustments. In case financial differences do arise, they are ironed out. This is a continuous process, more so in an environment of fluctuating fuel prices.

Sabyasachi De,
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Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is the monarchy still relevant in the 21st century?

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Philip Murphy

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PARLEY

The coronation of King Charles III of the U.K. has led to critical questions on the relevance of the monarchy in the 21st century, in the context of tectonic shifts in society, politics and culture in the U.K. and across the Commonwealth realms. In a conversation moderated by **Narayan Lakshman**, Priyamvada Gopal and Philip Murphy discuss what these changes imply for the future of monarchies in the U.K. and across the world. Edited excerpts:

The U.K. monarchy is unique because it has a local and global relevance; the monarch is the Head of State in the U.K. and Head of the Commonwealth. Do you think this means that some immutable elements of the U.K. monarchy will survive the major societal, political, and cultural changes of the 21st century, and if so, what are they?

Philip Murphy: European monarchies in general are quite difficult to dislodge short of war and revolution and regime change. What we are going to see in the near future is that most of the non-U.K. realms will become republics. We saw movement towards that even before the Queen died. It was a combination of things, including the Black Lives Matter movement, the rise of the reparations movement, and Barbados transitioning to a republic in 2021. That started a race amongst the remaining Caribbean realms, who were saying that they intend to become republics. In the U.K., particularly in England, only around 22%, according to the last poll, said that they would vote to become a republic if there was a referendum tomorrow. So, I don't think you're going to see change in the U.K. But in Scotland, and particularly in Northern Ireland, there are growing proportions of republican supporters.

Priyamvada Gopal: I don't think there's any clear sense that a republic might emerge in the near future. Brexit and its effects and the possible breaking apart of the U.K. as we know it will have consequences. But I was struck by the demographics of who was interested in the coronation, [which is] important because demographic change may have serious consequences for the monarchy. About 70% of people [aged] below 50 said that they were either hostile or indifferent to the coronation. Only 9% of the population said that they were fully invested in celebrating the occasion.

PM: Monarchy does matter very much to the British establishment. You saw that across the board in corporate London, [where] everyone was told to be on their best behaviour and the Metropolitan Police came down heavily on peaceful protesters from the pressure group, Republic. But the thing that really struck me about polling ahead of the coronation was that even older people who you would imagine to be very enthusiastic towards the royal family were relatively unenthusiastic about the coronation. There was a sense that in 1953, you had this young monarch, and it was all very glamorous. It was a very different world, and a very different imperial nexus that the monarchy was the head of. But now you're crowning a king well into his 70s. You sense a general lack of enthusiasm. Even if we go to those glamorous younger royals, William and Kate, they had a rather unsuccessful visit to the Caribbean last year.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla with members of the working royal family. REUTERS

A key challenge to the idea of monarchy is the notion that all human beings are created equal. Yet even in democratic, capitalist societies, elites exist, and are often required to justify their position. Are monarchies under fire mainly because their hereditary nature makes it harder to justify their continuance?

PM: It's a challenge for the republican movement to make a convincing argument about how it would transform British society. There are monarchies in some European countries such as the Netherlands and Sweden, which are much more equal than the U.K. Indeed, under Elizabeth II, the U.K. itself became a much less class-bound society, and it's sometimes difficult to impress on younger people today just how rigid those class divisions were in 1952. Even though we live in an unequal society, it's unequal in slightly different ways. The big question that the republican movement has to answer is, would becoming a republic in itself change very much of that?

> The threats to democracy, whether in Britain or in India, are not coming from institutions such as the monarchy, but from billionaire class, the plutocracies.
> PRIYAMVADA GOPAL

PG: There is actually no programme that a group like Republic has put forward that will address fundamental inequality. For instance, would people who own large chunks of London stop doing so? They wouldn't. The plutocratic nature of a republic might not change at all, so you might have an elected head of state and still have tremendous inequality.

To situate the debate in the context of the economic upheavals caused by COVID-19 and lockdowns and then the cost-of-living crisis in many countries linked to trade disruptions and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, does the continuance of monarchical power appear more untenable in light of the economic distress of the middle class?

PG: If Britain continues in the disastrous economic direction it's heading in, which is growing impoverishment and a kind of return of colonialism, it is going to be untenable for people at the top of society to become richer. The number of billionaires in Britain has increased since before the pandemic, and their share of wealth has increased to a staggering £653 billion. Charles himself is worth a couple of billions and the monarchy is worth $28 billion. Of course, it's hard to assess what they have and don't have partly because of the secrecy laws that Queen Elizabeth II was able to garner to protect herself and her family. But increasingly, people are certainly unenthusiastic about celebrating ostentation. A lot of people were very disturbed at the £250 million that was spent on the coronation, which is exactly the amount that the government has just taken out of the social care budget. It's not just the middle class, but the middle class and below - as people become poorer and poorer, it becomes harder to celebrate people at the top being very wealthy and garnering even more wealth and power.

PM: It is always dangerous for the monarchy, as with other parts of the permanent British state, when British society seems divided. You saw that in the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher, when the Queen's Press Secretary got into trouble for blurting out that the Queen was worried about Mrs. Thatcher's policies. You then tend to find that opinion towards the monarchy tends to divide along those lines. That's why Brexit was a particularly dangerous moment for the monarchy, in that it left Britain very divided. We're now seeing the economic consequences of that in terms of the impoverishment that's come on the back of that. You've seen an increasing number of journalists doing difficult investigative reporting work of trying to expose the hidden wealth of the House of Windsor.

Does a monarchy grind away at the moral foundations of a democracy? The 1975 Australian constitutional crisis is a case in point (in a Commonwealth realm context). Could the monarch thus exceed their powers, which in the U.K. include appointing and removing the Prime Minister, dissolving or proroguing Parliament, and so forth?

PM: One of the big problems is that we don't know enough about how the monarchy works in relation to democracy and that's because of excessive official secrecy over the release of papers. You can make a case for the need for members of the royal family to protect their privacy. But there's a whole class of correspondence of documentation about how the palace relates to the British government on constitutional matters like proroguing Parliament. We don't know enough about how that has worked under Queen Elizabeth II because of excessive official secrecy.

PG: The threats to democracy, whether in Britain or in India, are not actually coming from institutions such as the monarchy, [but] from billionaire class, the plutocracies. We have rising authoritarianism in many contexts, and it rarely comes from an institution like the monarchy. In fact, I would have wished that as the Tory government whittles away at British democracy through the Public Order Bill and the proroguing of Parliament, that monarchy might have exercised a staying hand of some kind. But of course, constitutionally, there's secrecy around this - exactly what was said and to whom we won't know. But to me the great danger to democracy comes from vested economic interests and rising ethno-nationalism, racism, and communalism. My anxiety around democracies is around those forces rather than the monarchy per se.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Facing the heat for an interview is a part of every journalist's life

A journalist's job — to present the first draft of history — is incomplete if it only presents one state-approved view

Suhasini Haidar

"Who do you work for? Which Indian agency has sent you here?" I could tell from the tone and rising voices of the mob around me that things could get very sticky very quickly if I didn't move. I was at Lahore airport in 2011, attempting to take a flight back to Delhi, when a group of people who seemed to be journalists surrounded me and asked for an interview on the impressions of my visit to Pakistan. But the exchange turned unfriendly as what they really wanted to ask about was an interview I had done with a senior Army official. He had said that it was "possible" that those who had trained and guided the terrorists during the Mumbai 26/11 attacks may have been formerly in the military, but that the Pakistani Army had no knowledge of them. The interview had made headlines in both Pakistan and India. The Army had issued a clarification on the comments, distancing itself from the interview. Clearly, the establishment had no intention of allowing me to leave the country without feeling some heat for the story. Back home, I faced more questions – this time on why I had even interviewed someone in the Pakistani military.

Facing the heat for an interview is a part of every journalist's life, and comes in many forms – from governments who find it inconvenient for a counter-view to be "platformed" to commentators who believe that it is an "anti-national" act to interview officials of an unfriendly country. While much of it comes in the form of verbal criticism, sometimes the displeasure of interviewing the other side takes a dangerous turn. I learned this when I saw a brick smash my car window some years ago after I interviewed an opposition leader in a neighbouring country.

To begin with, bowing to these wishes would mean taking dictations from others on who to interview and when to interview them, whereas a journalist is answerable only to their organisation and to their readers and viewers.

Second, foreign policies of countries are dynamic, and the villains of one day are often the friendly interlocutors of the next. The present government, which forswore contact with the Taliban for several years, now has a "technical team" in Kabul. Indian officials meet with Taliban officials to discuss various initiatives, and this year, even conducted online training sessions with them. Despite anger at the regime in Kabul over denying education to girls or sheltering terror groups, several journalists from the international media and the Indian media have interviewed Taliban officials. Similarly, while Indian and Chinese leaders held close parleys for years, ties between them today are frosty over the border issue. The question then is: do journalists align themselves so thoroughly with a constantly changing policy that they only do those interviews that are "sanctioned" by the government at that moment? A print agency journalist found this out the hard way when he conducted an interview with the Chinese Ambassador in India, and faced fire from the government for it.

Politicians and leaders, too, change their positions frequently. An interview I did in 2015 with the ousted Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who virtually accused India of sabotaging the election, was frowned upon by the government, but when Mr. Rajapaksa visited India in 2020 as an elected Prime Minister and received a red carpet welcome, the interview I conducted with him then was considered a "scoop."

This week, questions have been posed to journalists, including of *The Hindu*, who conducted interviews with visiting Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto, and to television network CNN in the U.S., for hosting a town hall meet with controversial former President Donald Trump. The truth is that journalists and diplomats have missions that are separate from those of governments, politicians and powerful establishments. A journalist's job – to present the first draft of history – is incomplete if it only presents a single, state-approved view.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Celebrating the victory of good over evil

A Cham Lama performance on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Jayanti at Tupchiling Gompa in Lahaul in Himachal Pradesh. Monks in elaborate masks, headgear and colourful costumes dance slowly to the music played, also by monks, using traditional instruments such as drums and cymbals. It is believed that the Cham dance is performed to exorcise evil spirits and demons. ANI

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 12, 1973

Indian help for truck plant in Sri Lanka

Colombo, May 11: Commercial vehicles and motor spare parts may be manufactured in Sri Lanka with Indian collaboration if a proposal now being discussed by officials of the two countries is accepted by their Governments.

Talks on Indo-Sri Lanka cooperation which began at the Ministry of Planning yesterday will continue till to-morrow when a joint communique on the decisions reached is expected to be released.

Among the wide range of subjects under discussion are proposals to set up joint ventures for manufacture of tyres and other rubber-based industries, graphite products, commercial vehicles and motor car spare parts. Linking of Sri Lanka by power grids, establishment of a micro wave radio link between the countries and a proposal for joint promotion of tourism are also under discussion.

Sri Lanka is also expected to ask India for a further line of credit to import agricultural machinery and to remove or at least liberalise the ceiling now placed on advertisements over Radio Sri Lanka.

After a plenary session at the Planning Ministry the Indian delegation broke into small groups to hold discussions with officials of different Ministries before final round of talks tomorrow.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 12, 1923

Indian case

London, May 11: The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is considering a judgment in appeal by the Maharajah of Kolhapur against the judgment passed by the High Court, Bombay, with regard to the legality and validity of the application of the Summary Settlement Act to certain lands in the Southern Mahratta country, formerly part of the Kolhapur Estate. The appeal has raised the question to lands by adoption. The Maharajah contended that no adoption not made with his sanction could comply with the conditions of the Bombay Government.

From Page One

Governor's decision to call floor test wrong: SC

Given the resignation, the court said that Governor Koshyari was right in then inviting Mr. Shinde to form the new government. "The post of the Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra fell vacant after the resignation of Mr. Thackeray on June 29, 2022. The leader of the party that had returned the highest number of candidates to the State Assembly extended support on behalf of the party to Mr. Shinde. Thus, the decision of the Governor to invite Mr. Shinde to form the government was justified," the Bench held. The court refused to invalidate the election of Speaker Rahul Narwekar merely because some of the MLAs who participated in the election faced disqualification proceedings.

The court did not accept the plea made by the Thackeray faction to call for and decide the disqualification petitions pending before the Speaker. "Absent exceptional circumstances, the Speaker is the appropriate authority to adjudicate petitions for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule [anti-defection law]...," Chief Justice Chandrachud, who authored the unanimous verdict for the five-judge Bench, noted.

Split vs defection

Further, the court drew a map of factors for the Speaker to consider while deciding the disqualification petitions. First, the court said the Speaker could not accept the Shinde group's sole defence that they had merely "split" from the Shiv Sena party, and not defected.

Second, the court said that the Speaker, while considering the question of which faction was the "real" Shiv Sena, must consider the version of the party constitution submitted to the Election Commission with the consent of both factions. This would be the 2018 party constitution in which Mr. Thackeray was elected party president.

Third, the judgment said that the Speaker must not be swayed by the numbers in the House. "The Speaker must not base his decision as to which group constitutes the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the Legislative Assembly," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

The court also declared Mr. Narwekar's decision recognising Bharat Gogawale as Chief Whip of Shiv Sena as "illegal". Again, the court found that the Speaker's decision to recognise Mr. Shinde as the "Leader of the Shiv Sena Legislative Party" was "illegal" too.

"The Speaker, by recognising the action of a faction of the Shiv Sena Legislative Party (SSLP) without determining whether they represented the will of the political party, acted contrary to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule," the judgment said. The Bench also found fault with Mr. Narwekar's decision to stay the disqualification proceedings "in anticipation" of the decision of the Election Commission on which of the two rival factions was the original political party of the Shiv Sena.

The court further referred to a larger Bench of seven judges the question of whether a Speaker facing removal could decide disqualification petitions against MLAs under the Tenth Schedule.

SC: Delhi govt. has control over officers

A Constitution Bench headed by the Chief Justice, however, reiterated that the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) would not have the power to legislate on public order, police and land in the national capital. "The legislative and executive power of NCTD over Entry 41 shall not extend over to services related to public order, police, and land. However, legislative and executive power over services such as Indian Administrative Services or Joint Cadre services, which are relevant for the implementation of policies and vision of NCTD in terms of the day-to-day administration of the region, shall lie with NCTD," the Court laid down the law.

If a democratically elected government is not able to hold to account the officers posted in its service, then its responsibility towards the legislature as well as the public is diluted, Chief Justice Chandrachud reasoned. The court held that the Lieutenant Governor was, according to Article 239AA, bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers of NCTD in relation to matters within the legislative scope of NCTD, which included all 'services' coming under Entry 41 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution except those related to public order, police and land.

"The day-to-day decisions of the Council of Ministers are to be implemented by a neutral civil service, under the administrative control of the Ministers. Civil service officers thus are accountable to the Ministers of the elected government, under whom they function...," the Chief Justice observed.

Delhi government's appeal

The Delhi government had approached the Supreme Court amidst a scenario in which civil service officers were directly pushing policy files directly to the Lieutenant Governor rather than consulting elected Ministers of the Delhi government.

The Supreme Court said a principle of "triple-chain of collective responsibility" existed in the governance of the capital. This three-cornered command included civil service officers being accountable to Ministers, who are in turn accountable to the Parliament/Legislature, which is ultimately answerable to the electorate.

U.S. engages with India on human rights: White House

U.S. encourages all countries to uphold their human rights obligations and commitments, and to work towards building inclusive societies, says White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

Sriram Lakshman

In the run-up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the U.S. next month, the White House has said that the Biden administration regularly engages with India on human rights and that U.S. President Joe Biden "never shies away" from having conversations on rights issues with other leaders.

The comments, made on Wednesday by White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, were in response to a question on whether the optics of Mr. Modi being honoured at the White House were "problematic" when there were "obvious human rights concerns" under the Modi government and "clear differences" over the two countries' policies on Russia and Ukraine.

"So as we do with other nations around the world, we regularly engage with – with Indian government officials at senior levels on human rights concerns, including freedom of religion or belief," Ms. Jean-Pierre told reporters aboard Air Force One on Wednesday.

Jean Pierre said U.S. President Joe Biden 'never shies away' from having conversations on rights issues with other leaders. REUTERS

"That is something that the President regularly does. We encourage all countries to uphold their human rights obligations, commitments, and to work towards building inclusive societies," she added. Mr. Biden is known to pride himself on a stated ability to work across the aisle in Washington as well as working with foreign leaders across the board, based in part on his years as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and then Vice-President.

'Need to build on'

"As you know, this is a President who has had decades of experience of leader-to-leader relationship," Ms. Jean Pierre said, adding that the U.S.'s relationship with India was an important one and part of how the U.S. moves forward in the region. "And so the President believes this is an important relationship that we need to continue and build on," she said.

"As it – as it relates to human rights, as I just laid out, this is a conversation that we have with other nations around the world. The President is never shy – never shies away to – to have that conversation with leaders," Ms. Jean-Pierre said.

The U.S. is playing a "long game" with India, its National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan had said last June, in the context of India's approach to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. has also, in recent years, become more circumspect about openly criticising the Modi government's human rights record and the extent of its adherence to democratic norms, indicating that those conversations are going on in private and are two-sided. The U.S. sees the relationship with India as a crucial part of its strategy to counter China's rise.

Not joining any front now, says Patnaik after meeting Modi

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Chief Minister met Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on May 9

Two days after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar met Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik amid speculation of strengthening Opposition unity, Mr. Patnaik on Thursday said he was not going to join any front ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Emerging from a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, Mr. Patnaik, when asked about the possibility of his joining the 'Third Front', said, "No, not as far as I am concerned. Not now."

On the position of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) going alone in the Assembly and the Lok Sabha elections, he said, "That has always been our principle."

On May 9, after his meeting with Mr. Kumar, the Odisha Chief Minister had already made it clear that he had held no discussion on joining a non-BJP platform.

According to political observers, the Biju Janata Dal has carved out a dominant position in Odisha politics leaving mainstream parties such as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress as marginal players.

"Why would Mr. Patnaik join a non-BJP Opposition coalition? He is very comfortable in Odisha. No outside Opposition political party can benefit him politically. He continues to believe in the party's strength as a regional player having a cordial relationship with the party at the Centre," said Rabi Dash, veteran journalist and political observer.

Mr. Dash pointed out, "The Odisha CM has largely been unaffected as far as visits of Central agencies are concerned. Opposition leaders allege the Modi government has been trying to control opponents by misusing agencies. There has been no such bid to entangle BJD leaders."

Train arson case: NIA holds searches in Shaheen Bagh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at 10 locations in and around Shaheen Bagh in Delhi in connection with the Kozhikode train arson case. Three passengers were killed and nine injured in the incident on April 2.

Among the properties searched during the exercise were those of accused Shahrukh Saifi and various other suspects. Mr. Saifi, a resident of Shaheen Bagh, was arrested on April 6 for allegedly committing the arson.

During the searches, the agency seized several digital devices, including mobile phones, laptops and hard disks, along with documents.

A file photo of the accused, Shahrukh Saifi, being brought to the Kannur railway station as part of the investigation. ANI

The case was initially registered at the Kozhikode railway police station. Mr. Saifi was charged with setting on fire the D-1 coach of the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express, which resulted in the death of a child and two others.

The NIA took over the investigation on April 17. According to the NIA, its probe so far has revealed that Mr. Saifi was a follower of various radical Islamic preachers, including Zakir Naik, Pakistan-based Tariq Jamil, Israr Ahamed and Taimoor Ahmed.

Third low-intensity blast in Amritsar; five arrested

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

A low-intensity explosion occurred near the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday midnight, the third blast within a week.

Punjab Director-General of Police Gaurav Yadav said five persons were arrested in connection with the cases. The arrested have been identified as Azad Veer Singh, Amrik Singh, Saheb Singh, Dharmendra, and Harjeet Singh.

The police recovered 1,100 grams of explosive material-chemicals and radical literature from their possession. They have been booked under different Sections of the Explosives Act and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

The accused in the blasts near the Golden Temple, being produced in a court in Amritsar on Thursday. PTI

The police said the accused had admitted to their crime. Mr. Yadav said a Special Investigation Team would be constituted to probe the case.

Wednesday's explosion is reported to have occurred in the pathway and park around the Golden Temple.

Mr. Yadav, while not ruling out links of the arrested persons with Pakistan-based agencies or Pro-Khalistani elements, said that *prima facie* it seemed that the main perpetrators in this case were "individually radicalised".

'President's Rule should be imposed in Manipur'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Alleging that the violence in Manipur seemed "preplanned", the Congress on Thursday demanded immediate imposition of President's Rule in the State to help restore peace and normalcy.

The party's in-charge for Manipur, Bhakta Charan Das, also demanded that rehabilitation efforts need to be expedited and a compensation of ₹20 lakh should be paid to the next of kin of those who were killed in the violence and ₹5 lakh should be given to those people whose houses were destroyed.

Mr. Das questioned why Home Minister Amit Shah has not visited the strife-torn State yet and why Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained silent on the issue. "The BJP government has utterly failed to control the situation. It has been unable to stop the violence, unable to stop weapons from being looted or recover them, unable to rescue innocent people and unable to provide facilities to those in relief camps," he said.

Absence of ICC in wrestling federation: NHRC issues notice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Various sports federations have been told to submit detailed reports within four weeks

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday took *suo motu* cognisance of media reports about absence of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) which is mandated by the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, 2013. The move comes amid the ongoing protest by wrestlers against alleged sexual harassment by federation chief Brij Bhushan Singh.

The communique issued by the NHRC added that according to the media report, the wrestling body is not the only one which does not have a duly constituted ICC. In addition to it, there are as many as 15 of the 30 national sports federations which do not meet this mandatory requirement.

"The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, amount to a violation of a law, and thus is a matter of concern as it may impact the legal right and dignity of the sportspersons," the NHRC communique said.

It has issued notices to the Secretary, Department of Sports, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The notice has also been sent to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Board Of Control For Cricket In India (BCCI), Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). As many as 15 other national sports federations for Handball, Volleyball, Basketball, Weightlifting, Yachting, Gymnastics, Table Tennis, Billiards and Snooker, Kayaking and Canoeing, Judo, Squash, Triathlon, Kabaddi, Badminton, Archery, which either do not have even an ICC or properly functional ICCs as required in the law, were also served the notice.

They have been asked to submit detailed reports within four weeks, including the present status of the ICC in their organisations, the NHRC added.

Nitish's former aide R.C.P Singh joins BJP in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

R.C.P. Singh, former Union Minister who has served as the national president of the Janata Dal(U), joined the BJP at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. Mr. Singh was welcomed to the party by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Once considered the closest of aides to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Mr. Singh resigned from the Union Council of Ministers and the JD(U) last year after he was denied a renomination to the Rajya Sabha by the party. Mr. Singh was seen by the JD (U) to be veering closer to the BJP, which is said to have soured the relationship between him and Mr. Kumar.

Joining the BJP, Mr. Singh took a swipe at Mr. Kumar, saying that the latter compromised his stand against crime and corruption for his love of the chair. "He will be left with nothing in Bihar," Mr. Singh said, and mocked Mr. Kumar as "*palti maar*" (someone who keeps taking a U-turn) .

Pilot begins his yatra against corruption

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Reiterating his demand for strong action against corruption and examination paper leaks, Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Thursday embarked on a five-day-long 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' from Ajmer. Thousands of Congress party workers followed Mr. Pilot in his march to Jaipur, while MLAs loyal to him were kept away from the yatra.

Sachin Pilot

At a function in Jaipur, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot made a veiled attack on Mr. Pilot, saying that those who indulged in factionalism by raising *thari-mhari* (yours and mine) issues could never be successful or loyal to the party.

While All India Congress Committee (AICC) didn't comment, AICC in-charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa has convened a meeting of some office-bearers, including State Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasara, in Delhi on Friday to discuss the issue.

APPEAL

Master Mayur Kiran Bhoyar, son of Kiran Narayan Bhoyar, 7 years admitted in Christian Medical College, is suffering from X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD). This is an inherited disease. The treatment option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The best option for him would be to undergo Haploidentical Transplant. The estimated cost of Haploidentical Transplant at our center will come to approximately **Rs. 25,00,000**/-. Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/ D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Mayur Kiran Bhoyar. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.
SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Pleas and counter-pleas

A look at how the Uddhav and Shinde camps battled it out in the Supreme Court after the split in the Shiv Sena and the change of government in Maharashtra

2022

June 27: In a relief to rebel Shiv Sena lawmakers, the Supreme Court extends time to them to reply to disqualification proceedings before the Deputy Speaker

June 29: The court refuses to stay the Governor's direction that the Uddhav Thackeray government take a floor test

July 11: The court asks newly elected Speaker Rahul Narwekar not to proceed with the petition seeking disqualification of Uddhav faction MLAs

August 23: The court refers to a five-judge Bench the petitions filed by Shinde raising constitutional questions on defection, merger and disqualification

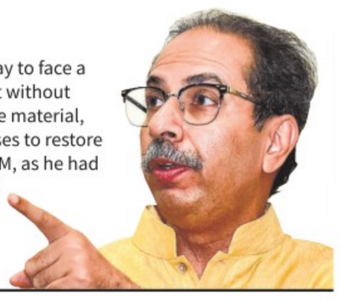
2023

February 14: The Thackeray faction urges the court to refer the cases related to the Maharashtra political crisis to a seven-judge Bench for reconsideration of the 2016 Nabam Rebia judgment

February 15: The court says the issues related to the Maharashtra political crisis raise 'tough' constitutional questions and have 'very serious' ramifications for the polity

February 21: It starts final hearing on a batch of pleas filed by the Uddhav and Shinde factions

May 11: A five-judge Constitution Bench delivers a unanimous verdict ruling that the Governor ordered Uddhav Thackeray to face a floor test without adequate material, but refuses to restore him as CM, as he had resigned without facing the vote



Congress hails SC verdicts, calls them path-breaking

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the Supreme Court judgments on the Maharashtra political row as well as the one that defined the Delhi government's legislative and executive powers, the Congress on Thursday described them as "seminal and path-breaking".

Rajya Sabha member and national spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi, who had argued both the cases, said the court's orders were a "moral, political and ethical loss for the BJP".

"Unholy, undemocratic and ugly nature of the BJP's underbelly has been exposed," Mr. Singhvi said.

Mr. Singhvi said that the court had castigated the actions of the former Maharashtra Governor and the Speaker of the Assembly.

He also said that "Delhi now will not be ruled by a nominated Lieutenant-Governor and L-G controlled bureaucracy but by a representative democracy".

Shinde, Fadnavis must quit on moral grounds, says Uddhav

Maharashtra CM calls the verdict 'a victory of truth'; Fadnavis says it has 'cleared all doubts' about the legality of the Shinde government

Shoumojit Banerjee
Abhinay Deshpande
PUNE/MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday termed the Supreme Court's verdict on a batch of pleas related to last year's political crisis in the State a "slap" on those who called his government "illicit", while Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray sought the resignation of Mr. Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis on "moral grounds".

Mr. Thackeray said that the ruling "reinstates trust in democracy" and Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis should resign on moral grounds "if they have any ethics". "My resignation as CM may have been legally wrong, but I did it on moral grounds," he said.

A lifeline: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after the verdict on Thursday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

He also slammed the then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari for asking him to take the floor test.

Addressing a joint press conference, Mr. Shinde called the verdict "a victory of truth", while Mr. Fadnavis said it "cleared all doubts" about the legality of the Shinde government. "The court has made it clear that the Speaker has the right to decide on the disqualification petition," Mr. Fadnavis said. Responding to Mr. Thackeray's demand to quit, he said he had no right to talk about morality.

"The truth is Uddhav did not resign as CM on moral grounds, but was afraid of losing the floor test," he said.

SC's scepticism over Maharashtra Chief Minister's route to power

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A series of observations made by the Supreme Court over the Uddhav Thackeray-Eknath Shinde tussle over the "real' Shiv Sena signalled the judges' scepticism about the Maharashtra Chief Minister's route to power.

For one, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading the Bench, had observed how the 39 rebel Shiv Sena legislators who made up the Shinde camp would have been disqualified under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution had the Supreme Court not stayed the hand of then Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal in an interim order on June 27, 2022.

The Bench had wondered whether its 2016 judgment in the Nabam Rebia case was more of "a caution than an absolute principle".

The Rebia judgment had held that a Speaker who was himself under a cloud should not hear and decide disqualification petitions of legislators under the anti-defection law until his own name was cleared.

> Allowing an MP or an MLA who is facing disqualification under the anti-defection law to participate in a floor test caused by his own doings will defeat the very purpose of Tenth Schedule. Allowing such MLAs to attend a trust vote would amount to legitimising a constitutional sin
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

"It is a caution to the Speaker and ultimately it is for the Speaker to take a call whether there is frontal assault on his continuance or whether he would like to go ahead with the hearing of the disqualification petition," Chief Justice Chandrachud had observed.

Second, the Constitution Bench had wondered whether MLAs facing disqualification for causing a 'split' in the party, and unsettling the ruling government, could be allowed to benefit from a subsequent floor test.

Allowing an MP or an MLA who is facing disqualification under the anti-defection law to participate in a floor test caused by his own doings will defeat the very purpose of the Tenth Schedule, Chief Justice Chandrachud had observed.

"Allowing such MLAs to attend a trust vote would amount to legitimising a constitutional sin... One the one hand, you have the Tenth Schedule, which is to prevent the constitutional sin of defection. On the other, you say somebody who defects, causes a split within the party, is liable to be disqualified... At the same time, you say that even if that person is liable to be disqualified, in the meantime, he can participate in the trust vote in the House..." Chief Justice Chandrachud had asked senior advocate Neeraj Kishan Kaul, who appeared for the Shinde group.

Finally, the Bench had referred to then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's call for a trust vote on the floor of the House, which had eventually led to the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray government.

"A Governor must be aware of the fact that his very calling for a trust vote may precipitate the loss of majority for a government. Calling for a trust vote may itself lead to the toppling of a government... Governors must not lend their offices for effectuating a particular result... The Governor cannot enter into any area by which his action would precipitate the fall of a government," he had observed.

On the draw

All eyes now on Speaker Narwekar for a decision on disqualification petitions

Sonam Saigal
MUMBAI

With the Supreme Court on Thursday ruling in the Maharashtra political row case that "the Speaker must decide on the disqualification petitions within a reasonable period", all eyes are now on Speaker Rahul Narwekar.

After the Eknath Shinde government was formed, on July 3, 2022, Mr. Narwekar became the Speaker, winning 164 votes.

The five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday did not decide on the disqualification petitions filed by former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. "This court cannot ordinarily adjudicate petitions for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule [disqualification on the ground of defection] in the first instance. There are no extraordinary circumstances in the instant case that warrant the

SC says the Speaker must decide on the disqualification petitions within a reasonable period

exercise of jurisdiction by this court to adjudicate disqualification petitions. The Speaker must decide disqualification petitions within a reasonable period," it said.

The court held Mr. Narwekar's decision recognising Bharat Gogawale, a candidate of the Shinde group, as the Chief Whip of the Shiv Sena "illegal."

Stressing the difference between the political and legislature wings of a party, the court said, "To hold that it is the legislature party which appoints the whip would be to sever the figurative umbilical cord which connects the member of the House to the political party."

As for the recognition of Sunil Prabhu, who was originally appointed as the Chief Whip by the Shiv Sena, experts have opined that Mr. Narwekar must disqualify the 16 MLAs who violated the whip issued by Mr. Prabhu.

P.D.T. Achary, former Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, said, "The Speaker has no other option except to disqualify the MLAs from the Shinde faction. Because the Supreme Court has said that the whip can be issued by the political party, i.e. party headed by Uddhav Thackeray. This means the Shinde faction which defied the whip, is naturally liable to be disqualified."

Nikhil Wagle, political analyst, said, "The Supreme Court has said the selection of the whip is illegal, then the entire process is illegal, so the Speaker doesn't have much option. But Mr. Narwekar is openly partial, so I think he will delay the process."

Governors can't play a role in intra-party disputes, says court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said former Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari had mistaken a section of Shiv Sena MLAs' expression of "discontent" with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government for their withdrawal of support, and called for a floor test in just two days' time in June 2022.

The Governor's call for the floor test on June 28 led to the resignation of Uddhav Thackeray as Chief Minister the next day. "Communication expressing discontent on the part of some MLAs is not sufficient for the Governor to call for a floor test," a Constitution Bench held.

Dissent and disagreement within a political party must be resolved in accordance with the remedies prescribed under the party constitution, the court said.

"Floor test cannot be used as a medium to resolve internal party disputes or intra-party disputes... There is a marked difference between a party not supporting a government, and individuals within a party expressing their discontent with their party leadership," Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud pointed out.

Neither the Constitution nor laws enacted by Parliament provide for a mechanism by which disputes amongst members of a particular political party can be settled. "They certainly do not empower the Governor to enter the political arena and play a role (however minute) either in inter-party disputes or in intra-party disputes," the Chief Justice wrote.

The Governor could not have acted upon an inference that a section of the Shiv Sena wished to withdraw their support to the government.

SC rejects Centre's argument that national interests take priority over local quibbles

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the Centre's claim of superiority over the elected government of Delhi on the ground that the national capital is the seat of the Union government and "national interests take precedence over and beyond the quibbles of local interests.

The Centre backed its argument on a narrow interpretation of a phrase – "in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union Territories" – in Article 239AA (3)(a) of the Constitution.

The Article, introduced through the Constitution (Sixty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 1991, declared the National Capital Territory of Delhi and its "special provisions". One of its clauses said the Legislative Assembly of Delhi "shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or in the Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union Territories".

Favourable result: AAP leaders and supporters celebrating the Supreme Court's ruling in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The Centre said the phrase meant that the legislative and executive powers of Delhi were limited to that of any Union Territory. But the court said "Union Territories were not a homogenous class". They differed according to the local aspirations of various regions.

"Article 239AA establishes a Legislative Assembly for NCTD. The seats in the Assembly are filled by a direct election from the constituencies of NCTD... Article 239AA must be interpreted to further the principle of representative democracy," a Constitution Bench said.

Addressing the Centre's apprehensions about "national interests", the court said "Article 239AA(3) balances between the interest of NCTD and the Union of India". There are multiple safeguards in place to protect the Centre's interests in the national capital.

For one, the Delhi Assembly cannot make laws on public order, police, and land. Second, the Article gives Parliament a "plenary power" to legislate on "any subject in any of the three Lists of the Seventh Schedule for NCTD".

Nitish meets Pawar, Uddhav in Mumbai

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/PATNA

In a bid to strengthen Opposition unity ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai.

Mr. Kumar said "whatever the ruling BJP is doing is not in the interest of the country". He stressed the need for Opposition parties to work together and stand united in the interest of the nation.

When asked if the NCP patriarch will be the main face of the Opposition, Mr. Kumar said that there will be nothing more delightful than that, and added that he told Mr. Pawar to work with more strength not only for NCP but for the entire country.

Mr. Pawar stated that looking at the current condition of the country, it is important to work together to "save democracy".

"As per my information, BJP is going to lose Karnataka Assembly election. This is not limited to Karnataka, this is the situation in large parts of the country. I am happy that Nitish *ji* has taken up a mission to fulfil what is needed today," he said.

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No.KMSCL/ED/11/2023 Date : 10.05.2023

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of following categories of drugs / supplies for the year 2023-24.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/ED/I&II/RT/2023/008 dtd. 10.05.2023	Drugs	71
2.	KMSCL/ED/III-VIII/RT/2023/009 dtd. 10.05.2023	Consumables & Surgical items	34
3.	KMSCL/ED/SPL/RT/2023/010 dtd. 10.05.2023	Specialty Drugs	65

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	23.05.2023	Up to 05.00pm.
Date of technical bid opening	27.05.2023	11.00 am. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

SIT covering up caste bias, say deceased IIT student's kin

Months after the Mumbai Police arrested a classmate of IIT-Bombay student Darshan Solanki for allegedly abetting his suicide, Mr. Solanki's family members on Thursday held a press conference in Mumbai saying they had lost confidence in the investigation. The family, led by the 18-year-old's father, Rameshbhai Solanki, alleged that the Special Investigation Team probe was sidelining instances of caste discrimination faced by Mr. Solanki and was instead pinning the blame on one other student in a separate matter. The family's statement said that they had written to the Chief Minister, Home Minister, Police Commissioner and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) about their concerns.

Technology is a tool to empower people, says PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed the 1998 nuclear tests in Pokhran as one of the most glorious days in India's history, and asserted that improvement in technology in the country is not about showing its dominance but a tool to speed up development. Addressing an event on National Technology Day, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Pokhran tests, Mr. Modi said his government has used technology as a source of empowerment and to ensure social justice. Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory - India (LIGO-India) and dedicated to the nation a facility to produce permanent magnets from rare earth minerals.

WhatsApp promises action amid spurt in spam calls

WhatsApp has taken notice of reports of spam calls and missed calls from unknown numbers, many of them from foreign STD codes, and is ramping up its detection of such calls, the company said in a statement on Thursday. "... we have quickly ramped up our Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning (ML) systems to bring down such incidents [international spam calls] significantly," a WhatsApp spokesperson said. "Our new enforcement will reduce the current calling rate by at least 50% and we expect to be able to control the current incidence effectively."

ED summons NCP leader Jayant Patil in fraud case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday summoned the Maharashtra State president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) Jayant Patil in connection with the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL& FS) money-laundering case. Mr. Patil, a Cabinet Minister in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi, has been asked to appear before the Central agency on Friday. His statement may be recorded at the Mumbai office of the probe agency. IL&FS had filed for bankruptcy in 2018. On Wednesday, the ED had searched premises of two former auditor firms in Mumbai – BSR and Associates and Deloitte Haskins and Sells.

Drugs and demographics in Manipur

A State government source attributes the current wave of tensions between the majority Meitei community and the Kukis to the actions taken by the administration since 2017-18 against poppy cultivation in the hill districts; BJP legislator says no forum in the hills endorses opium trade

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On May 8, when Imphal was reeling under curfew in the aftermath of the May 3 violence, the Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB) specialised unit of the State police raided a property in the Mantripukhri area of the city. It seized 77 gunny bags, suspected to contain poppy seeds, and 120 kyat, Myanmar's currency.

The NAB said in a May 9 statement that it suspected that the house owner belonged to an international drug cartel.

Meitei civil society groups claim that the May 3 violence – which had claimed at least 65 lives – was actually retaliation by some tribal groups over a series of actions taken by the N. Biren Singh government, including the "war on drugs", and clearing of reserve forest areas in the hills, removing allegedly illegal occupants. The Mantripukhri raid by the NAB shows that the State government was doubling down on narcotics even in the middle of a serious law-and-order situation where more than 35,000 persons were displaced.

Such actions are premised on a detailed note prepared by the State government on "unnatural growth in the number of villages and new settlements in some districts of Manipur."

Sharing data and satellite images, a top source in the Manipur government said that in 1969, there were 587 villages in the Imphal valley, which is dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis. That dropped to 544 villages in 2021. On the other hand, in the hill districts – which are inhabited mostly by 34 Scheduled Tribes including the Kukis and the Nagas – there were 1,370 settlements and villages in 1969. By 2021, however, this had shot up to 2,244 villages, the source said.

Valley urbanisation

One of the possible explanations for the drop in the number of villages in the valley is the rapid urbanisation, compared with the hills. It cannot be determined whether the growth in settlements in the hills is commensurate with a growth in population, as the 2021 census is yet to be conducted.

Buildings and houses were set on fire or demolished by mobs during the violence in Churachandpur in Manipur recently. AFP

Churachandpur – a hill district with a majority population of Kukis which was one of the main hotspots for last week's violence – had 282 villages in 1969, which almost doubled to 544 in 2021.

Paolienlal Haokip, the Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Saikot in Churachandpur district, countered this narrative of demographic change. He explained that, according to Kuki traditions, whenever a clan grows they are given permission to make another village in the same area. This explains the increase in the number of villages in Kuki areas, he said.

"Those who say this [about the increase in number of villages] are not aware of Kuki customs. To say that these settlements are of illegal migrants from Myanmar is simply not true. It is true that after the *junta* (military rule) took over Myanmar [in 2021], some people fled to Manipur. But that number would be in hundreds, they have not set up any villages," Mr. Haokip told *The Hindu*. He added that the increase in settlements in Kuki areas is also due to the ethnic tensions with the Nagas between 1992 and 1997.

Land vs population

The valley, with 10% of Manipur's landmass, is dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis, most of whom are Hindus, who account for more than 64% of the population of the State and yield 40 of the State's 60 MLAs. The hills make up 90% of the State's area, but send only 20 members to the Assembly.

According to the website of the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), there was an increase of 0.9% in the State's Scheduled Tribe population between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. The 2021 census is yet to be conducted, so the current population is not known.

The People's Alliance for Peace and Progress Manipur (PAPPM), an influential Manipur-based civil society group, said in a statement on May 8 that "the Myanmar-origin Kuki immigrants occupying sensitive high positions in Indian government offices sustain uninterrupted entry of illegal Kuki migrants into Manipur. Both these are a threat to national security of India."

At a press conference in Delhi on May 9, the group insisted that the violence that erupted on May 3 was rooted in the Kukis' opposition to the government's "war on drugs".

The Manipur government source said that the current wave of tensions between the majority Meitei community and the Kukis lies in the actions taken since 2017-18 against illegal poppy cultivation in the hill districts.

The source said that since 2017-18, over 18,664 acres of poppy farms have been destroyed by the authorities, compared with just 1,889 acres of poppy destroyed between 2013 and 2016.

Mr. Haokip pointed out that there is no church or civil society organisation in the hills that endorses poppy cultivation. "All groups have issued advisories against such cultivation. It is the big investors from the valley who are the kingpins of this trade," he said.

SC reserves judgment on same-sex marriage case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved for judgment a series of petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud closed the hearings after several days of marathon sessions.

The government had objected to the idea of a judicial declaration giving legal status to same-sex relationships, saying that would result in confusion, especially in personal laws, and encroach on the legislative domain.

Chief Justice Chandrachud had said the court could examine the need for a judicial declaration that same-sex couples had a "right to cohabit in a normal, peaceable environment in our country without facing any form of discrimination, societal or otherwise".

Aspirants knock at Pradhan's doors for reopening JEE application window

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

As the IIT-Guwahati, the organising institute of the Joint Entrance Examination (Advanced), has decided not to extend the date of registration for the test, a number of aspirants and several student organisations have approached the Education Ministry and the National Testing Agency demanding more time to submit applications.

While the Students Federation of India (SFI) wrote to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan seeking his intervention, a delegation of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), a pro-government students' union, met the NTA officials with a request to extend the last date for registration, which was May 7.

SFI general secretary Mayukh Biswas told *The Hindu* that the NTA was not holding examinations in a transparent manner. "They are taking an exclusionary attitude and several students will not be able to sit for the JEE (Advanced). The last two days for submission were Saturday and Sunday and IIT-Guwahati did not respond to the queries on technical problems. We understand that about 40,000 applications were not processed," Mr. Biswas said.

Competitive test: This year, about 2.5 lakh candidates qualified for the JEE (Advanced) after attempting the JEE (Main). FILE PHOTO

In foolproof manner

Milind Marathe, former national president of the ABVP, said a delegation of the ABVP headed by its national general secretary Yagywalkya Shukla met the NTA officials and submitted a memorandum. "We have demanded that the date for submission be extended. In the past years, such extensions were given considering the technical problems faced by students. We expect the NTA to conduct all examinations in a foolproof manner. In the recently held UGC National Eligibility Test too, there were a lot of complaints on hacking of computers," Mr. Marathe said.

An IIT aspirant, who is eligible to appear for the JEE (Advanced) after the JEE (Main), said his mother sold her jewellery to send him to a coaching institute. "I am from a village and was facing difficulty in submitting the form. I tried on Saturday (May 6) and Sunday (May 7), but no one responded from IIT-Guwahati. We were given very limited time to complete the registration process from April 30 to May 7," he added.

Another student complained that the students' helpline was not available to him. "We wrote mails, but got a ready-made reply that registration is closed," he said.

Bishnupada Mandal, the organising chairman of the examination, had told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that the institute received about 1.95 applications for the examination. About 2.5 lakh had qualified for the advanced exam after the JEE (Main). The registration period was longer than that of previous years and many candidates had registered, Mr. Mandal said, adding that there was no scope to extend the date.

ICMR, AYUSH Ministry sign agreement on research

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Health Ministry and the Ministry of AYUSH signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) on Thursday to enhance collaboration and cooperation in health research in the field of integrated medicine.

This move will help Ayush departments in the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences evolve into departments of integrated medicine, said member (Health), NITI Aayog, V.K. Paul.

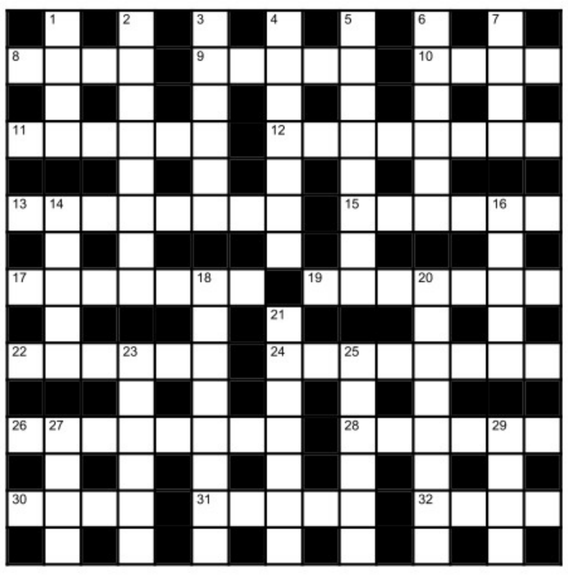
Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the collaboration would promote high-impact integrative research. "Joint efforts will be in place to conduct high-quality clinical trials on identified areas/disease conditions of national importance with promising integrative therapies to generate evidence for wider acceptance," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13863

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Drinks in Palestine (4)
9 Boxing champ with boy has one legal defence (5)
10 Second cavity in rotating cooking device (4)
11 Exact crime? Following old sweetheart! (6)
12 Cost of travel by planes got from Royal Engineers during organisation of safari (8)
13 Guard despatched before line is broken (8)
15 With initial general resolution, European Economic Community is joined by European country (6)
17 Send lac all over the place to make pieces of lighting equipment (7)
19 Winding answer, in short, is rejected by monarch (7)
22 Endlessly admire and respect bachelor's musical effect (6)
24 Without weapons, goes around hotel safe (8)
26 Nice pants! Jogging around grassy area? (8)
28 Place to view artefacts is silent about utility (6)
30 Superior at work sobs violently (4)
31 Eastern lake is strange and frightening (5)
32 Require grenade to be dismantled, after removing rag (4)

Down

1 Bend tailless insect in front of cross (4)
2 Went along with Spanish company right before commencement of Easter dinner (8)
3 Tin not rejected by Swiss member state (6)
4 At last, swimming aid is with friend (7)
5 Mix gin with toner to give a gas (8)
6 Flee El Salvador with cloak (6)
7 Assistant in Shanghai dead (4)
14 Dodge Tatooine Vader to some extent (5)
16 Ocean swirled around boat (5)
18 Hugged setter going back with couple at beginning of dance (8)
20 Knowledge about flower having a bit of exotic mineral oil (8)
21 Bird and sailor under vehicle died (7)
23 See pal erroneously pass (6)
25 That chap protected a politician with red basket (6)
27 Millionaire protects animal (4)
29 Utilises American emergency services in the beginning (4)

SUDOKU

9					7		4	
		3		4	6			9
8		4	9	5				
5		7				1	9	
	9	6				5		3
				3	9	7		4
3			2	6		9		
	4		7					2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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Solution to previous puzzle

	C	L		C	L		S	B		E				
M	O	L	E		I	N	A	C	C	U	R	A	T	E
	R		F		T		O		R		I		A	
E	D	I	T	O	R		S	E	A	T	B	E	L	T
	O		O		O				M		E			
U	N	E	V	E	N	L	Y		B	O	D	E	G	A
	B		E				E		L				R	
S	L	U	R		I	R	A	T	E		F	L	E	D
	E				R		T				E		E	
M	U	R	D	E	R			S	T	E	P	S	O	N	S
			E		I				X		T		L	
D	I	A	B	E	T	E	S		C	L	I	N	I	C
	V		A		A		E		I		V		G	
C	A	N	T	O	N	M	E	N	T		A	C	H	E
	N		E		T		N		E		L		T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	1	5	4	9	7	2	6
9	6	4	7	2	8	5	3	1
7	2	5	6	3	1	4	9	8
6	4	9	2	8	3	1	7	5
1	7	3	9	5	6	8	4	2
5	8	2	1	7	4	9	6	3
4	9	8	3	1	2	6	5	7
2	1	7	4	6	5	3	8	9
3	5	6	8	9	7	2	1	4

FAITH

Vedas, a friend in deed

Vedas have no beginning or end. They are not created by anyone. Hence Vedas are called "Anaadhi" and "Apourusheyam". It is said that the Vedas are the breathing air of God. From the days of yore, sages have fostered Vedas through their spiritual powers and taught them to people. Vedas are memorised by hearing and reciting and hence called 'Shruthi'. Vedas contain all information and they are the root of all dharmas. Ithihasas and Puranas will not reveal that which was not told by Vedas.

Taking bath at the confluence of rivers is considered a spiritual activity. Worshipping God in mountains and caves is said to be a holy one. It is said that learning Vedas or helping for the cause of the spread of Vedas is coeval to them.

Each and every good activity is backed by a dharma as stipulated by Vedas (*Dharmo rakshathi rakshita:*). If we protect those pious and righteous activities, they will not fail to protect us. A person who indulges in wrongful acts is destined to undergo the pangs for the same. One of the remedial measures prescribed to tide over the ill effects is to render Veda parayana or help for the conduct of the same.

A friend in need is a friend in deed – like how a person extends support to his friend in times of distress and in dire situations, Vedas are sure enough to protect us, said His Holiness Sri Ranganatha Yathindra Mahadesikan, the 46th Jeer of Ahobila Mutt in an Anugraha Bhashanam.

We all should support for the spread of the cause of Vedas which will protect and yield good benefits to all the people in the world.

ISTANBUL

Turkish candidate Muharrem Ince drops out of tight presidential race

AFP

Third-party candidate Muharrem Ince on Thursday withdrew from Turkey's tight presidential election in a shock move that increased the chances of an Opposition first-round victory. The 59-year-old announced his decision after being targeted by a smear campaign that included doctored images of him meeting women. AFP

LABUAN BAJO

Indonesia's Widodo says no real progress on Myanmar peace plan

AFP

Southeast Asian nations have made "no significant progress" on implementing a peace plan aimed at ending bloodshed in Myanmar, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said on Thursday, as a summit ended. Escalating violence in junta-ruled Myanmar dominated the meeting of the ASEAN on the island of Flores. AFP

BEIJING

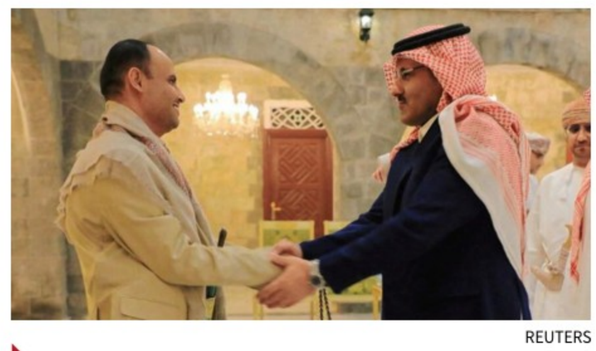
Australian Trade Minister visits China in a joint effort to repair ties

AP

Australian Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrell (left, in the photo) visited China on Thursday as part of a joint effort to repair ties scarred by political rifts over the past decade. In a statement issued by his office, Mr. Farrell said he would be "advocating strongly for the full resumption of unimpeded Australian exports to China." AP

ADEN

Yemen peace push 'serious' but next steps unclear: Saudi envoy



REUTERS

Warring parties in Yemen are "serious" about ending a devastating eight-year-old conflict but it is impossible to predict when direct talks, much less a breakthrough, might happen, Saudi Arabia's envoy Mohammed al-Jaber (right, in the photo) said in his first comment after meeting with Huthi leaders in Sanaa last month. AFP

Pakistan SC calls Imran Khan's arrest 'illegal'; orders his release

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial asked him to present himself before the Islamabad High Court on Friday; SC verdict comes a day after ISPR, military's media wing, said that May 9 would go down in history as a 'dark chapter'

Mehmal Sarfraz
LAHORE

The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Thursday declared that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's arrest from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday was "illegal" and ordered the former Prime Minister be released.

A three-member Bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial gave the verdict and sent Mr. Khan to the Police Lines guest house in Islamabad and asked him to present himself before the IHC on Friday. Mr. Khan was arrested by Rangers personnel on Tuesday, who were acting on arrest warrants issued by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case. The IHC had declared his arrest "legal".

Slam dunk: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf activists celebrating after the Supreme Court sets Imran Khan free, in Peshawar on Thursday. AFP

The SC verdict comes a day after a strongly worded statement by the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), which said that May 9 would go down in history as a "dark chapter". The ISPR said that soon after Mr. Khan's arrest, there were "organised attacks on Army properties and installations and anti-Army slogans were raised". The ISPR said a "power-hungry group wrapped in political garb" had done to the country what the country's enemies had failed to do since its inception. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday also condemned the PTI workers for committing "unforgivable crimes".

When asked what does the SC verdict mean in the light of the statement by the ISPR, former Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar told *The Hindu* that the ISPR's reaction to Mr. Khan came when he directly named a serving military officer (in an attempt on his life). "The very next day he was arrested in court premises by paramilitary forces."

He added that the future remains uncertain as "Pakistani political drama shames the Game of Thrones with its constant twists and turns. However, this much can be said that a cornered Imran Khan was dangerous and now with his ego wounded by maltreatment he might just turn into a monster."

25 dead as militants in Gaza, Israel trade fire

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY/BERLIN

Israel and Gaza militants traded more heavy fire on Thursday, the third day of the worst escalation of violence in months that has killed 25 people in the blockaded Palestinian enclave. Air strikes by the Israeli Army since Tuesday have killed fighters as well as civilians, including several children, said officials in the crowded coastal territory.

Cairo mediated in efforts toward a truce between Israel and the Islamic Jihad militant group, while France, Germany, Jordan and Egypt called for an end to the violence.

"The bloodletting must end now," said German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock after hosting her three counterparts for talks in Berlin.

Constant barrage: Smoke rising above buildings during an Israeli air strike in Gaza City on Thursday. REUTERS

Militants in the Gaza Strip have fired more than 500 rockets at Israel, causing no casualties so far, the Israeli military said.

Of these, 368 rockets made it over the border and 154 were intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defence system, while 110 fell inside Gaza, it said.

Shops in Gaza were shuttered and the streets largely abandoned as Israeli military aircraft circled over the territory where several buildings lay in ruins.

Violence has also flared in the occupied West Bank, where the Israeli Army has staged repeated raids which have often flared into street clashes.

Uzbekistan, once a backer of anti-Taliban forces, now bets on engagement

Stanly Johny
TASHKENT

Last month, Taliban Foreign Minister Muttaqi travelled to Samarkand and asked for continuing economic cooperation

In the late 1990s, when the Taliban were in power in Kabul, Uzbekistan, along with Tajikistan, Russia, India and others, supported the anti-Taliban United Front (Northern Alliance) that had controlled parts of northern Afghanistan. Now, when the Taliban are back in Kabul, after a gap of 20 years, Tashkent is experimenting a different policy – cautious engagement.

Last month, Uzbekistan hosted a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries in Samarkand, in which the Taliban Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, also participated. Mr. Muttaqi, who held bilateral talks with Uzbek Foreign Minister Bahtiyor Saidov, said Kabul was ready for the Trans-Afghanistan Railway project, which will connect Uzbekistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan and will significantly contribute to regional economic integration".

"There's a new reality in Afghanistan. The global community has demanded that the government in Afghanistan should be inclusive; rights of minorities and women should be protected and the country should not be a staging ground for terrorism. Uzbekistan has the same demands," Manish Prabhat, India's Ambassador in Uzbekistan, told a media delegation from India at the embassy in Tashkent. "But at the same time, Uzbekistan is sending humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, like India is also sending. It's our shared view that terror should not spill over into Central Asia. Any instability in Afghanistan will affect us."

In September last year, while speaking at the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Samarkand, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said the imposition of sanctions on the Taliban-run Afghanistan "will isolate Afghanistan and increase extremism in the country". He called for "constructive contact with Kabul".

In December, Mr. Mirziyoyev's government submitted an initiative to the UN Security Council, calling for the formation of a high-level international negotiating group to coordinate with the Taliban for the step-by-step implementation of the demands of the international community, which includes lifting the ban on girl's education and women's participation in the workforce.

"In my mind, we should listen to what they want. At least we will be able to see what they are thinking about Central Asia, about the future of our neighbours. Because we are too close. If you go to Termez, you can see Afghanistan, just across Amu-Darya (the river that divides Uzbekistan and Afghanistan). You cannot ignore them. They have taken political power. Why should we keep silent? We have to work with them," said Beruniy Alimov, director, New Media Education Center, a Tashkent-based NGO.

When in the past Uzbekistan supported Afghan Uzbek militias, the Taliban hosted the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), a jihadist group that wanted to overthrow Karimov's regime and create an Islamic State under Sharia. Today, Tashkent seeks assurances from the Taliban that they would not allow jihadist groups such as the IMU to launch terror attacks.

"We have to work with the Taliban on the security question. They have promised that they would not allow any terrorist group to operate inside Afghanistan. We should make sure that they stick to the promise," said Mr. Alimov, who was the Press Secretary of former President Karimov.

U.K. gives cruise missiles to Kyiv; Ukraine delays counter-attack

Associated Press
KYIV

The British government announced on Thursday it was giving long-range cruise missiles to Ukraine to help drive out Russia's occupying forces, just as Kyiv delayed a possible counteroffensive more than 14 months after the Kremlin's full-scale invasion as it awaits the delivery of more Western weapons.

U.K. Defence Secretary Ben Wallace told lawmakers in the House of Commons that Britain is donating Storm Shadow missiles, a conventionally-armed deep-strike weapon with a range of more than 250 kilometres.

That means it can hit targets deep behind the front line, including in Russia-occupied Crimea. U.K. media reported that Ukraine has pledged not to use the missiles to attack Russia itself.

The announcement came shortly after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his country's military needs more time to prepare a counteroffensive against Russian occupying forces.

Mpox no longer a global health emergency: WHO

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that mpox no longer constitutes a global health emergency on Thursday, almost exactly a year after the disease formerly known as monkeypox started spreading globally.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the decision was prompted by sharply falling case numbers worldwide, but emphasised that the disease remains a threat, particularly in areas of Africa where it has long been endemic.

This comes a week after the UN agency also declared that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), its highest level of alarm.

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
Website: https://odishafisheries.nic.in , https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in
Phone : 0671-2414061, Email:director.odifish@gmail.com
No. 7557 / Dated : 09.05.2023.

Cancellation Notice

The RFP No.3486 dt.01.03.2023, Corrigendum No.4495 dt.18.03.2023 and 2nd Corrigendum No.5073 dt.27.03.2023 of Directorate of Fisheries, Odisha **for engagement of a media consulting agency for IEC strategy and creative productions** published in different News Papers and Website of DoF & DAHVS is hereby cancelled due to Administrative reasons.

Sd/-
Director of Fisheries

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK
Website: https://odishafisheries.nic.in , https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in
Phone : 0671-2414061, Email:director.odifish@gmail.com
RFP No. 7558 / Dated : 09.05.2023.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Selection of a Media Consulting Agency for IEC Strategy and Creative Productions

Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Department, Odisha intends to engage a media consulting agency for IEC strategy and creative productions for smooth operationalization of the IEC activities taken up by the two Directorates i.e. Directorate of Fisheries and Directorate of AH&VS under the F&ARD Deptt. Hence, Director of Fisheries, Odisha, Cuttack of Department of Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Odisha invites sealed proposal from the eligible bidders having their office in Odisha for "media consulting agency for IEC strategy and creative productions" under the administrative control of Director of Fisheries, Odisha, Cuttack.

The RFP Document containing **details of scope of work, professional requirements and other bidding parameters** can be accessed and downloaded from the website of Directorate of Fisheries, Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Odisha at **https://odishafisheries.nic.in, https://dahvs.odisha.gov.in & tendersodisha.gov.in** .

Important dates for the bidding process:

Sl.No.	Critical Events	Time Line
1	Date of Issue of RFP	11.05.2023
2	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	26.05.2023 upto 5.30 PM
3	Opening of Technical Bid	29.05.2023 at 3.30 PM
4	Technical Presentation	05.06.2023 at 3.30 PM
5	Opening of Financial Bid	06.06.2023 at 3.30 PM

The proposal complete in all respects in a sealed envelope clearly mentioning on the top of it **"Selection Of A Media Consulting Agency For IEC Strategy And Creative Productions"** must reach the undersigned through **Speed Post / Registered Post** or can be dropped in the tender box placed at Directorate of Fisheries, Odisha, Mangalabag, Cuttack latest by **26.05.2023 upto 5.30 PM**. The proposals received beyond the scheduled last date and time shall not be considered and will be outrightly rejected. Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall only be available in web site indicated above. Further, the authority reserves the right to reject any/all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director of Fisheries

M-12: OIPR-06015/11/0009/2324

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

कार्य का शीर्षक तथा ई-निविदा सूचना सं. / Title of work & E-Tender Notice No.	पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.
1. इसरो कर्मचारी क्वार्टर्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में 450 केएलडी मलजल उपचार संयंत्र (एसबीआर) का संवर्धन (सिविल, पीएच तथा इलेक्ट्रोमैकानिकाल कार्य)/ Augmentation of 450 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant (SBR) At ISRO Staff Quarters, VSSC, Thumba (Civil, PH & Electromechanical works) **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/05/2023-24 Dt. 09.05.2023**	रु./Rs. 284.18 लाख/Lakhs
2. वीएसएससी, तुंबा आरएफएफ कैंटीन का विस्तार (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य)/ Extension of RFF Canteen at VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works) **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/06/2023-24 Dt. 09.05.2023**	रु./Rs. 104.50 लाख/Lakhs
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 12.05.2023, 10:00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 24.05.2023, 23:00 बजे/hrs	
ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / Extension of E-Tender :	
3. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में ब्रह्मप्रकाश कॉम्प्लेक्स में वीएलसीसी का विस्तार (सिविल कार्य)/ Extension of VLCC at Brahma Prakash Complex at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil works) **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/01/2023-24 Dt. 13.04.2023**	
डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 18.05.2023 को 23:00 बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto 23:00 hrs on 18.05.2023	

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in. Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 022

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/ अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति

संदर्भ /Ref No.VSSC/R&R/EOI/2023 तिथि /Date:10.05.2023

वर्ष 2023 में केरला के तिरुवनंतपुरम जिले के विभिन्न स्थानों में विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र द्वारा आयोजित किए जाने के लिए प्रस्तावित लिखित परीक्षाओं में उपस्थित हो रहे अभ्यर्थियों के बायोमेट्रिक मापदंडों के प्रग्रहण हेतु अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति।

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CAPTURING BIOMETRIC PARAMETERS OF CANDIDATES ATTENDING WRITTEN TESTS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE AT DIFFERENT VENUES IN THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT, KERALA IN THE YEAR 2023

इच्छुक पार्टी अपनी अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति मोहरबंद लिफाफे में, हमारे संदर्भ सं. VSSC/R&R/EOI/2023 का हवाला देते हुए, दिनांक **09.06.2023 (16:00** बजे)को या उससे पहले प्रस्तुत करें।

Interested parties may furnish their Expression of Interest in Sealed Envelope quoting our Reference No. VSSC/R&R/EOI/2023 **on or before 09.06.2023 [16:00 Hrs.]**

विवरण हमारे वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in और www.vssc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध हैं।

Details are available in our website www.isro.gov.in and www.vssc.gov.in

हस्ताक्षरित/Sd/-
वरि. प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार/ Sr. Head, Purchase & Stores

INBRIEF

HDFC to raise at least ₹30 bn through five-year bonds

Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) plans to raise at least ₹30 billion through bonds maturing in five years, the company informed exchanges on Thursday. HDFC invited bids from investors and bankers on Monday. The issue has a greenshoe option to retain additional subscription of up to ₹50 billion. The bonds are rated AAA by Crisil and ICRA and the issue will be settled on Tuesday. REUTERS

Chemplast unit signs LoI with agrochemical innovator firm

Chemplast Sanmar Ltd.'s Custom Manufactured Chemicals Division (CMCD) signed a letter of intent (LoI) with a global agrochemical innovator company recently to manufacture an advanced intermediate for an established generic active ingredient. The LoI is for a period of five years. Commercial supplies are expected to start from the fourth quarter of FY24. The product would be manufactured at the new multi-purpose production block, the company said.

Govt. scraps levy on soyabean, sunflower seed oil shipments

The Centre has scrapped the customs duty and cess levied on shipments of crude soyabean oil and crude sunflower seed oil imported by firms that had been authorised for such imports under the Tariff Rate Quota regime in 2022-23.

The duty exemptions will be effective from Thursday till June 30, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said. Global edible oil prices had shot up last year after the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out.

GST e-invoicing to include smaller firms from August 1

Centre lowers mandatory e-invoice filing threshold to ₹5 crore in annual turnover from ₹10 crore, move seen helping expand the tax net; CBIC also rolls out an Automated Return Scrutiny Module

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a move that would add to the compliance requirements for small and medium businesses under the GST regime while expanding the tax net, the Centre has made it mandatory for all businesses with an annual turnover of ₹5 crore to use e-invoices from August 1.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), which notified the reduction from the current ₹10-crore level, also rolled out an 'Automated Return Scrutiny Module' for GST returns. The module's implementation has already commenced with the scrutiny of GST returns for the financial year 2019-20.

"This module will enable the officers to carry out scrutiny of GST returns of Centre-administered taxpayers selected on the basis of data analytics and risks identified by the system," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

"In case customers accept invoices from such vendors without e-invoice compliance, their input tax credit would be denied, resulting in GST loss for them to the extent of 18% generally, which could severely impact their bottom lines," said Vivek Jalan, partner at Tax Connect Advisory.

Widening net

Move to lower e-invoicing threshold coupled with rollout of automated return scrutiny aimed at expanding GST tax net

- Module's implementation has commenced with scrutiny of GST returns for 2019-20
- It will enable officers to scrutinise returns of Centre-administered taxpayers selected by data analytics
- Tax experts say moves in line with government's efforts to crack down on fake invoices, GST evasion

Go First must raise funds to keep it a going concern, IRP Lal tells airline's staff

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cash-strapped budget carrier Go First, which is under a court-directed insolvency process, will raise funds to continue as a going concern, according to the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) who will oversee the operations and management of the airline.

"We are working on a tight schedule," Abhilash Lal, IRP, said during a townhall with the staff.

"We have to figure out how best to do it," he said. "We have to raise the funds to do it and we have to ensure we have the qualified people to do it," he added.

The NCLT earlier admitted Go First's plea for voluntary insolvency and appointed an IRP. It also granted the airline a moratorium from adverse action by lessors and lenders.

Financial losses

The airline had claimed financial losses of up to ₹10,000 crore on account of issues plaguing its Pratt & Whitney engines resulting in the grounding of 28 out of 54 aircraft and dues amounting to ₹11,643 to its various creditors.

Two more aircraft lessors – GY Aviation and SFV Aircraft Holding – moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), joining SMBC Aviation Capital in appealing against the NCLT order.

BoE raises rates, Bailey vows to 'stay the course'

Reuters
LONDON

The Bank of England raised its key interest rate by a quarter point to 4.5% on Thursday and Governor Andrew Bailey said the central bank would "stay the course" as it seeks to curb the fastest inflation of any major economy.

The BoE is no longer predicting a recession after it revised up growth forecasts from February's gloomy outlook, the biggest such revision since it first shared forecasts in 1997.

Adani group eyes $2-2.5 bn share sale

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate is looking to raise $2-2.5 billion through an equity share sale after the ports-to-energy conglomerate was rocked by allegations of fraud levelled by a U.S. short seller.

Boards of two group companies will meet on May 13 to consider fundraising, according to stock exchange filings.

This comes three months after Adani Enterprises Ltd. was forced to abort a ₹20,000 crore follow-on public offering (FPO) in the wake of the Hindenburg report. U.S. short seller Hindenburg Research in January released a report alleging accounting fraud and stock price manipulation at the Adani group, triggering a stock market rout.

HNIs prefer FDs over debt mutual funds: Motilal Oswal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With the debt mutual fund schemes now under the tax ambit, the attractiveness of the product has reduced as high net worth individuals (HNIs) are favouring bank fixed deposits (FDs) over such funds, according to a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services on Thursday.

In addition, interest rates on bank deposits have increased significantly, leading to HNIs getting inclined towards FDs.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,905	-0.06
US Dollar	82.09	-0.18
Gold	61,370	-0.35
Brent oil	75.33	-1.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1984.65	92.50
Adani Ports	708.80	17.80
Apollo Hosp	4595.30	-6.00
Asian Paints	3139.75	98.35
Axis Bank	895.95	6.05
Bajaj Auto	4547.90	-8.05
Bajaj Finserv	1420.40	5.95
Bajaj Finance	6663.45	31.95
Bharti Airtel	788.60	-7.45
BPCL	372.55	0.40
Britannia Ind	4635.15	30.20
Cipla	943.60	-0.80
Coal India	236.15	-0.40
Divis Lab	3329.20	-96.05
Dr Reddys Lab	4532.00	-335.30
Eicher Motors	3405.30	-11.45
Grasim Ind	1774.15	-0.25
HCL Tech	1088.10	9.80
HDFC	2767.15	14.50
HDFC Bank	1653.20	1.10
HDFC Life	567.40	4.75
Hero MotoCorp	2585.45	-0.60
Hindalco	420.85	-15.60
Hind Unilever	2592.40	69.70
ICICI Bank	939.20	3.15
IndusInd Bank	1187.45	14.90
Infosys	1256.10	-7.15
ITC	420.40	-4.95
JSW Steel	710.60	-13.75
Kotak Bank	1957.95	-0.75
L&T	2242.15	-122.30
M&M	1251.30	2.65
Maruti Suzuki	9260.90	92.75
NestleIndia	22019.80	-30.20
NTPC	179.55	2.50
ONGC	167.05	0.10
PowerGrid Corp	248.55	0.90
Reliance Ind	2480.30	-16.30
SBI Life	1185.40	-3.40
State Bank	573.45	1.25
Sun Pharma	961.05	7.25
TataConsumerProduct	789.45	-1.70
Tata Motors	511.60	2.10
Tata Steel	108.55	-0.70
TCS	3282.15	-4.65
Tech Mahindra	1044.05	-2.10
Titan	2757.85	12.40
UltraTech Cement	7835.45	92.25
UPL	682.90	3.20
Wipro	384.65	0.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.89	82.21
Euro	89.49	89.84
British Pound	103.19	103.61
Japanese Yen (100)	61.03	61.27
Chinese Yuan	11.80	11.85
Swiss Franc	91.71	92.07
Singapore Dollar	61.64	61.89
Canadian Dollar	61.04	61.29
Malaysian Ringitt	18.33	18.43
Australian Dollar	55.12	55.34

Source:Indian Bank

South Indian Bank Q4 net climbs 23% to ₹334 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

South Indian Bank Ltd. reported standalone net profit for the quarter-ended March increased 23% from the year-earlier period to ₹334 crore.

Interest income rose to ₹1,973 crore from ₹1,635 crore, the lender said.

For FY23, the lender recorded the highest-ever business of ₹1.64 lakh crore, net profit of ₹775 crore, 34% rise in net interest income to ₹3,012 crore and net interest margin of 3.30% (highest in 17 years).

Gross NPAs slid by 76 bps to 5.14% while net NPAs fell 111 bps to 1.86%. The board has recommended 30% dividend.

Sundaram HF Q4 net rises 23% to ₹65 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundaram Home Finance Ltd. (SFHL) posted a 23% growth in net profit for the quarter ended March from the year-earlier period to ₹65 crore.

Disbursements increased 54% to ₹1,222 crore. Assets under management for the full year rose to ₹11,005 crore from ₹9,281 crore, the wholly owned subsidiary of Sundaram Finance said in a statement.

"We achieved record disbursements of over ₹500 crore in March this year," said MD D. Lakshminarayanan.

"The year was also marked by our asset portfolio crossing a significant milestone of ₹11,000 crore.

D. Lakshminarayanan

We also hired over 450 people in FY23," he said.

"Overall, it has been a strong growth year for us driven by demand in Tier 2 and 3 towns in the southern market," Mr. Lakshminarayanan added.

SFHL, which made a foray into the Small Business Loans (SBL) segment, disbursed close to ₹10 crore in the first six months of its operations.

Godrej & Boyce PIRE unit bags orders worth ₹2,000-crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Power Infrastructure and Renewable Energy (PIRE) business of Godrej Electricals & Electronics, a business unit of Godrej & Boyce said it had secured orders worth more than ₹2,000 crore from power transmission, railways, and solar projects.

The projects include EPC for EHV substations of 400kV and 765kV across India, a GIS substation with 220kV underground cable in Mumbai, and a 132kV substation project in Nepal. The company has also secured an order for a ground-mounted solar plant of 20MW in West Bengal.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-A

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-01(A)/23-24 Dt:11.05.2023

"Misc. Civil works@ SMPC Unit-1" (T/C-23-002, Est. cost ₹ 47.16 Lakhs); **"Masonry works @ SSPF, FLP"** (T/C-23-004, Est. cost ₹10.75 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 26.05.2023**. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram-639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph : 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email: pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Work Description	Due Date
232413 000965	Renewal of BT road from TNPL Community hall to Colony Gate, Hardwood Pulpmill to WTP and road patch works (Millwide) at TNPL unit I - Phase I	20.05.2023

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com/ www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/2531/Tender/2023 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT,
SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
[Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302 001]
[Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email - ms.smshospital@gmail.com]

No. 1315 Store/SMS/MH/2023 Jaipur dated, the 29/4/23

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for two years rate contract for procurement of Biochemistry Reagents and Kits are invited from interested bidders up to 5.00 P.M. on 24-5-23. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

UBN No. MCJ2324GLRC00013

Medical Superintendent
S.M.S. Hospital
Jaipur

DIPR/C/6409

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the following project of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram limited Project Area
1) Request for proposal RFP for Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram.

SL. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount (Exclusive of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
	Selection of Contractor for Development of Smart Roads and Under ground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart (Corporation Roads) in Thiruvananthapuram			
1.	Road ID 42 (KK Road)	2023_SCTLT_550795_2	Rs.2,59,55,590	16/05/2023
2	Road ID 43 (Marakkada Road)	2023_SCTLT_550815_2	Rs.2,29,11,634	16/05/2023
3	Road ID 178 (Vivekananda Nagar Lane)	2023_SCTLT_551354_2	Rs.1,47,13,233	16/05/2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines).

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
EOI-SOLAR	Notice Inviting Expression of Interest for Installation of Rooftop Solar Power Plant of 1MW capacity each in Unit 1 & Unit 2 buildings	31.05.2023
232423 000434	Design, Manufacture and Supply of Centrifugal Pumps for Additional Pulp Storage Tower at TNPL Unit - II	31.05.2023
232413 001063	Bleached Softwood Sulphate Pulp for Unit - I	25.05.2023
Email	EOI-SOLAR - pmd1@tnpl.co.in 232423000434 - pmd5@tnpl.co.in 232413001063 - purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com/ www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/2510/Tender/2023 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

SRI KARAN NARENDRA AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY
SKN Agri-Business Incubator (S-ABI) Jobner – 303329, Distt – Jaipur (RAJ.)
E-Mail : pi.sabi@sknau.ac.in +91-9928126767, +91-9785518999

No.F. ()/RKVY/SABI/2023-24/11 Date :- 10/05/2023

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from Startups and Individuals for Abhyuday-8 (AOP/Pre-Seed Stage) & Kalpvriksh-8 (SIP/Seed Stage) Programme 2023-24

S-ABI, Jobner an agri-business incubator funded by RKVY-RAFTAAR, is organizing 'Abhyuday-8' and 'Kalpvriksh-8' programme with the following key features:

ABHYUDAY-8 (For Ideation Stage)	KALPVRIKSH-8 (For Startups Expansion)
• Expert Assistance • 2 Months Training (Residential/Online as per the Government directives) • Grant-in-aid upto Rs. 5 Lakhs	• I.T. Equipped Lab • Expert Assistance • 2 Months Training (Residential/Online as per the Government directives) • Grant-in-aid upto Rs. 25 Lakhs

Startups will be considered for Seed Stage Funding and individuals with innovative ideas yet to start business will be considered for pre-seed stage funding. Last date to receive online application is tentatively 31st May 2023.

For extension in last date and more details please visit our website **www.sabijobner.co.in** or **www.sknau.ac.in/en/skn-agri-business-incubator**.

Raj.Samwad/C/23/2161 P.I. (S-ABI), SKNAU, Jobner

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, VISAKHAPATNAM,
Telephone No. 9966333342 e-mail id: eeakp2015@gmail.com
Tender Notice No.09/2023-24/SE(W-IV)/EE-VII/DB/Dt: 08.05.2023

01. Number of Works : 1 No
02. Value of Works (ECV) : Rs.56.72 Lakhs

01.	Down Loading Starting Date	:	09.05.2023. @ 8.00 p.m
02.	Down Loading End Date	:	23.05.2023. @ 2.00 p.m
03.	Last date of submission of Bid	:	23.05.2023. @ 3.00 p.m
04.	Date of opening Tenders (Technical Bid)	:	23.05.2023. @ 4.00 p.m
05.	Date of opening Tenders (Price Bid)	:	24.05.2023. @ 4.00 p.m

E-Tender Website: https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/
E-Mail ID for Clarifications / Communication : ee2gvmc@gmail.com
Note: Any addendum / Corrigendum / bid clarifications / time extension shall be issued on the website only. No separate press notification shall be issued.

FOR COMMISSIONER

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:

1. **Tender No. 008/MYS/CIVIL/2023-24 -** Design, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of outdoor LED wall at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
2. **Tender No. 009/MYS/MMD/2023-24 -** Supply of Band Roll Paper-185 mm width at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
3. **Tender No. 010/MYS/MMD/2023-24 -** Supply of Packet Band Roll for BPSX9 at BRBNMPL, Mysuru & Supply of Packet Band Roll for BPS at BRBNMPL, Salboni.
4. **Tender No. 006/MYS/CIVIL/2023-24 -** Repair and water proofing works at D & E type quarters, Township Health Centre and KV School Building, Note Mudran Nagar, Mysore.

For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in.** Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.

Sr. General Manager (PP)

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH

(Institution of National Importance Under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India) Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry-605 006
Phone: 0413-2296617/2296351 **E-mail:** purchase.jipmer@gmail.com
website: http://www.jipmer.edu.in / jipmer.pharmacy@gmail.com

RFP No.JAK01/JIPMER/PY/2023-24 Dated: 12.05.2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) for Establishment of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJAK) in JIPMER, Puducherry

The Director, JIPMER Puducherry - 605 006, invites REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) for Establishment of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJAK) in JIPMER, Puducherry for the period **one year.**

Tender Document and **"Tripartite Agreement"** may be downloaded from the JIPMER official website **http://www.jipmer.edu.in** & **https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app** from **12.05.2023** onwards.

All addendums/Corrigendum's relating to this Advertisement will appear in above said websites only.

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF PURCHASE

'Chola to sustain AUM growth of 22-25%'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola), the financial services arm of the Murugappa group, will continue to maintain its assets under management (AUM) growth in the range of 22-25% for FY24, according to a senior official.

While the retail AUM of non-banking finance companies is expected to grow at a healthy 12-14%, after a strong rebound in 2023, Chola expects its AUM growth to be above the market curve viz. in the range of about 22-25%, Vellayan Subbiah, chairman and non-executive director, said on an earnings

Vellayan Subbiah

call. During FY23, Chola posted a 36% growth in its AUM at ₹1,12,782 crore, due to overall growth across all business segments.

In 2-3 years, vehicle finance would constitute about 50% of AUM from the present 61%, loans against property and home loans about 30-35% and new businesses 15%, CFO Arul Selvan added.

'EVs, green tech to drive India growth'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India's growth in the next 10 years will be driven mostly by electrification (EV), energy transition, green technology and renewables as they stand to offer a huge and long-term business opportunity for the country, according to Paul Marriott, President, SAP, Asia Pacific.

"India is the fastest-growing geography in the entire Asia-Pacific region and even globally," he said in an an interview.

According to him, the Asian markets overall, especially South East Asia, are still very resilient. Japan is continuing to grow, there is significant growth

Paul Marriott

coming from Indonesia and Singapore. Korea is seeing an interesting growth wave driven by four to five mega high-tech companies, including Samsung, LG and Hyundai, supported by a large ecosystem.

He further said there seemed to be a small-digit increase over last year, in the IT budget in the region.

RESULTS SHOWING

Have worked on my technique against the short ball: Nitish Rana

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Nitish Rana said he has worked on his technique of facing short balls after receiving criticism, which he said "hurt him". "I have worked on facing the short ball, and it is showing in my batting now. Because many were criticising my technique against the short ball."

CHANGING TIMES

I don't like the term anchor, says Liam Livingstone

He might be known for his ability to hit massive sixes from ball one but Punjab Kings batter Liam Livingstone doesn't feel that the role of anchors has become redundant in T20s. "It depends in each team, everybody plays in a very different way. I don't like the term anchor either. It is about everyone having a key role in how to play."

INSPIRATIONAL PLAYER

India call-up not far away for Rinku, says Harbhajan

Former India star Harbhajan Singh expects young KKR left-hander Rinku Singh to earn the India cap sooner rather than later after his exploits in IPL-16 (337 runs at SR 151). "... He's run all the hard yards and worked very hard. His journey is a life lesson and all young kids should learn from him," Harbhajan told Star Sports.

CALMNESS PERSONIFIED

Swann likens RR skipper Sanju to a young Dhoni

Former England spinner Graeme Swann feels Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson's calm demeanour and ability to read the game make him seem like a younger version of the great M.S. Dhoni. "He's very calm; he's very assured; he is like a young Dhoni; He doesn't lose his calm, and reads the game well," he said.

Jaiswal and Chahal lead a Royal thrashing of KKR

The left-handed opener records the fastest half-century while the leg-spinner becomes the highest wicket-taker of the tournament; Venkatesh's fifty helps the hosts reach a modest 149

IPL-16

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Yashsvi Jaiswal's insatiable hunger for runs helped him nearly score his second hundred and propelled Rajasthan Royals to a commanding nine-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League at the Eden Gardens here on Thursday.

After limiting Knight Riders to 149 for eight, thanks to Yuzvendra Chahal's creditable four-wicket haul, Royals chased down the target comfortably with 41 balls to spare.

The in-form Jaiswal (98 n.o., 47b, 12x4, 5x6) made a mockery of the target as he played a breathtaking knock which included 26 runs off the first over bowled by the home team's skipper Nitish Rana.

Stars of the day: Chahal bamboozled the KKR batters to return a four-for before Jaiswal shred the hosts' attack to pieces. K.R. DEEPAK

Good use of the feet

He picked his areas and used his feet admirably to plunder runs on either side and scored his fourth half-century in just 13 balls to record the fastest IPL fifty.

Even though Jos Buttler was run out early, it hardly made a difference as Jaiswal and captain Sanju Samson (48 n.o., 29b, 2x4, 5x6), dropped on 16, continued the onslaught to share a 121-run unbroken partnership. It put Royals back on the victory path and kept it in the playoffs race.

Earlier, Venkatesh Iyer's responsible half-century enabled KKR to put up a modest total even as Chahal took four important wickets.

Royals fielders' exceptional showing was the reason why Knight Riders lost its explosive openers Jason Roy and Rahmanullah Gurbaz in Trent Boult's consecutive overs inside the PowerPlay.

Breathtaking knock
Jaiswal (98 n.o., 47b, 12x4, 5x6) made a mockery of the target as he played a breathtaking knock which included 26 runs off the first over bowled by KKR skipper Rana. He plundered runs on either side and scored his fourth half-century in just 13 balls to post the fastest IPL fifty

Top wicket-takers in IPL

	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Chahal	142	**187**	5/40	7.64	6/1
Bravo	158	**183**	4/22	8.38	2/0
Chawla	175	**174**	4/17	7.85	2/0
Mishra	160	**172**	5/17	7.36	4/1
Ashwin	193	**171**	4/34	7.01	1/0

The Knight Riders' left-handed duo, captain Rana and Venkatesh, chose to rotate the strike and added 48 runs. Chahal broke the partnership when Rana swept to Hetmyer in the 11th over.

Venkatesh (57, 42b, 2x4, 4x6), who hit the ball over the ropes between cover and mid-wicket, hammered R. Ashwin for two consecutive sixes and Chahal for two fours and a six in an over.

High catch

He got his second fifty before mistiming Chahal and offering a high catch to Boult.

Chahal trapped Shardul Thakur in front in the same over and had Rinku Singh caught at long-off to finish with 187 scalps, the highest in the IPL.

The leg-spinner, who showed great control and varied his pace, claimed three wickets in the last five overs of the innings. Knight Riders managed only 33 runs, losing four wickets during that phase.

The visiting fielders' marvellous catching and unbelievable ground fielding kept the hosts in check.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Jason Roy c Hetmyer b Boult 10 *(8b, 2x4)*, Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Sandeep b Boult 18 *(12b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Boult b Chahal 57 *(42b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Nitish Rana c Hetmyer b Chahal 22 *(17b, 2x4)*, Andre Russell c Ashwin b Asif 10 *(10b, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh c Root b Chahal 16 *(18b, 1x6)*, Shardul Thakur lbw b Chahal 1 *(2b)*, Anukul Roy (not out) 6 *(6b)*, Sunil Narine c Root b Sandeep 6 *(5b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-1): 3; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-14 (Roy, 2.2 overs), 2-29 (Gurbaz, 4.1), 3-77 (Nitish, 10.2), 4-107 (Russell, 13.3), 5-127 (Venkatesh, 16.1), 6-129 (Shardul, 16.4), 7-140 (Rinku, 18.4), 8-149 (Narine, 19.6).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 3-0-15-2, Sandeep 4-0-34-1, Ashwin 4-0-32-0, Root 2-0-14-0, Chahal 4-0-25-4, Asif 3-0-27-1.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 98 *(47b, 12x4, 5x6)*, Jos Buttler run out 0 *(3b)*, Sanju Samson (not out) 48 *(29b, 2x4, 5x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-3): 5; Total (for one wkt. in 13.1 overs): 151.

FALL OF WICKET
1-30 (Buttler, 1.4).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Nitish 1-0-26-0, Harshit 2-0-22-0, Shardul 1.1-0-18-0, Varun 3-0-28-0, Narine 2-0-13-0, Suyash **(Impact Player in place of Venkatesh)** 3-0-22-0, Anukul 1-0-20-0.

Toss: RR. **PoM:** Jaiswal.
Royals won by nine wickets with 6.5 overs to spare.

Next assignment

RR: May 14 **vs. RCB**
Jaipur, 3.30 p.m.

KKR: May 14 **vs. CSK**
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Jaiswal's blitzkrieg

Royals' opener Jaiswal scored the fastest half-century (13 balls) in the history of IPL on Thursday. The following is the sequence

Ball	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Run	6	6	4	4	2	4	1	4	6	4	4	4	1

Fastest IPL fifties

Player	For	Against	Balls	Year
Jaiswal	RR	KKR	13	2023
Rahul	PBKS	DC	14	2018
Cummins	KKR	MI	14	2022
Yusuf	KKR	SRH	15	2014
Narine	KKR	RCB	15	2017
Pooran	LSG	RCB	15	2023

A must-win game for MI against Titans to stay in the race for playoffs

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

A win at the Wankhede Stadium on Friday will ensure a top-two finish in the league stage for Gujarat Titans, whereas for Mumbai Indians, it is a must-win game in a bid to stay in the hunt for the Indian Premier League playoffs.

Mumbai Indians has moved to the top-four spot after chasing down 200 runs inside 17 overs against Royal Challengers Bangalore in its last game.

Ahead of another home fixture, MI will be wary of a slip-up.

Though Titans are in a comfortable position, their director of cricket Vikram Solanki does not want the team to take 'anything for granted.'

Mohammed Shami and Rashid Khan (joint-highest wicket-takers with 19 each) have been very effective for Titans in the bowling front.

The seasoned Shami has been effective with the new ball, while Rashid and Noor Ahmad have been Titans' go-to-men for providing breakthroughs in the middle-overs.

Master's tips: Wadhera listens keenly to Tendulkar as MI skipper Rohit looks on . EMMANUAL YOGINI

However, in the last three games out of four, Mumbai Indians has chased down 200-plus totals and it would be interesting to see how the Titans bowlers plan against the home team.

With Suryakumar Yadav back in his element and the young Nehal Wadhera stamping his class, the five-time champion has gained momentum.

Though captain Rohit Sharma's form has been a cause for concern, the return of Tilak Varma will be a boost for the home team.

High expectations

In its last home game against LSG, Wriddhiman Saha and Shubman Gill paved the way for Titans' 200-plus score and on a batting-friendly surface, expectations will be high from the openers.

Today's match

MUMBAI INDIANS vs. GUJARAT TITANS

Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
MI 1 | GT 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by **55 runs**, 2023

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Fleming happy with cameos; Ponting rues 'too many dot balls'

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Delhi Capitals' slim chances of making the playoffs took a big hit after slumping to its seventh defeat against Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday.

Chasing 168, Capitals lost three quick wickets in the PowerPlay before the Super Kings spinners came to the fore with some accurate bowling on a slow and helpful surface and dried up the runs.

Lack of urgency

Commenting on the loss, Capitals coach Ricky Ponting lamented that his batters played a lot of dot balls during the middle phase of the game. "We lost two early, then we lost three early, and then the spinners came on. We didn't show any urgency against the spinners," said Ponting.

"There were about 34 dot balls in the middle of the game, and you are never going to win chasing if there are that many dot balls through the middle phase," he added.

Meanwhile, Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming revealed the team had asked its batters to play aggressively even if wickets were falling. The home team made 167 despite no batter crossing 25.

> Dhoni has concentrated on the last three overs and pretty strong hitting practice, and you can see the benefits
> FLEMING

"I think it is a reflection of how the game is being played. We have asked players to play more high-risk, and how you compose innings is slightly different. So, I am happy with the cameos," said Fleming.

The former Kiwi skipper also shed some light on Dhoni's clean hitting this year, saying, "He has been training a certain way. He knows he is not going to bat for a long time. So he has concentrated on the last three overs and pretty strong hitting practice, and you can see the benefits. So that cameo again at the end was valuable in a hard-fought 20 overs."

Playing to plan: Dube's knock was an example of how CSK batters carried out the gameplan of staying aggressive. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	11	**8**	3	0	**16**	0.951
Chennai Super Kings	12	**7**	4	1	**15**	0.493
Rajasthan Royals	12	**6**	6	0	**12**	0.633
Mumbai Indians	11	**6**	5	0	**12**	-0.255
Lucknow Super Giants	11	**5**	5	1	**11**	0.294
Royal Challengers	11	**5**	6	0	**10**	-0.345
Kolkata Knight Riders	12	**5**	7	0	**10**	-0.357
Punjab Kings	11	**5**	6	0	**10**	-0.441
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	**4**	6	0	**8**	-0.472
Delhi Capitals	11	**4**	7	0	**8**	-0.605

After the KKR-RR match on May 11

INBRIEF

Wawrinka cruises into the second round; Murray exits

Former World No. 3 and three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka shone following a rain delay at the Italian Open in Rome on Wednesday as the oldest player in the men's draw powered past Ilya Ivashka 6-2, 6-4 to book his place in the second round. However, Andy Murray's chances of being seeded for the French Open were dented when the former World No.1 lost to fellow 35-year-old Fabio Fognini 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. In the women's tournament, former U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens beat Nadia Podoroska 6-4, 6-1 to open her campaign in style.

Korea dashes India's hopes in the quarterfinals

Top seed Korea won both the singles matches without dropping a set to scotch India's hopes in the quarterfinals of the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 tennis tournament in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Thursday. Moobeeb Kim beat Rethin Pranav 7-6(2), 6-1 in the opening singles. Donghyun Hwang dropped five games in beating Kriish Tyagi in the second match. Korea gave a walkover in the inconsequential doubles. The second seeded India will play Australia in the positional play-off for the 5-8th places.

The results (quarterfinals):
Korea bt India 2-1 (Moobeeb Kim bt Rethin Pranav 7-6(2), 6-1; Donghyun Hwang bt Kriish Tyagi 6-2, 6-3; Yeonsu Jeong & Moobeeb Kim lost to Aarjun Pandit & Kriish Tyagi w.o.).

India drawn with Australia, Syria in 2024 AFC Asian Cup

The Indian men's football team on Thursday was drawn in a tough group as it was clubbed with heavyweights Australia, Syria and Uzbekistan in the 2024 AFC Asian Cup, to be held in Doha in January. India was in Pot 4 in the draw and will be in Group B in the tournament.

The groupings: A: Qatar, China, Tajikistan, Lebanon; **B:** Australia, Uzbekistan, Syria, India; **C:** Iran, UAE, Hong Kong, Palestine; **D:** Japan, Indonesia, Iraq, Vietnam; **E:** South Korea, Malaysia, Jordan, Bahrain; **F:** Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Kyrgyz Republic, Oman.

ODI rankings: India slips to third, Australia stays No. 1

India dropped to third position behind Pakistan and three points adrift off World No. 1 Australia in the latest ICC ODI men's Team rankings announced on Thursday. Australia improved its rating from 113 to 118, maintaining a slender lead over Pakistan (116 points) and India (115 points). With only three rating points now separating the top three teams, an interesting battle at the top of the rankings is imminent in the year of the World Cup.

Madrid Open apologises to women's doubles finalists

Madrid Open organisers apologised on Thursday after not allowing the women's doubles finalists to make speeches at the end of the tournament last week. The mens' doubles finalists were allowed to speak to the crowd, but women's winners Victoria Azarenka and Beatriz Haddad Maia and runners-up Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff were not allowed to address the crowd.

Juno routs Minerva in BDFA 'C' division football league

Juno FC blanked Minerva FC 6-0 in the BDFA 'C' division football league in Bengaluru.

The results: Basavanagudi bt ITC 5-3; Juno bt Minerva 6-0; Devanahalli bt 515 ABWS 2-1.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 & 7.30 a.m.
Ireland vs Bangladesh: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 3.15 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Saturday)

Inter rides a fast start to take control of the Milan derby

Dzeko and Mkhitaryan strike within the first 11 minutes to stun city rival at the San Siro; Milan faces an uphill task to stay on course to win its eighth European Cup

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Reuters
MILAN

Take that! Mkhitaryan rifles a strike past Milan's 'keeper Maignan for Inter's second. REUTERS

Inter Milan scored two early goals to secure an impressive 2-0 win over AC Milan in the Champions League semifinal first leg on Wednesday and stay on course to become the first Italian team to win the trophy since it did so in 2010.

Inter struck after eight and 11 minutes, with Edin Dzeko smashing in a close-range volley before Henrikh Mkhitaryan doubled the lead from Federico Dimarco's cross to stun its city rival at the San Siro.

Milan was shell-shocked and although it improved in the second half, it rarely threatened a comeback and faces an uphill task to stay on course to win its eighth European Cup.

Three-time European champion Inter made a fast start when Hakan Calhanoglu delivered a corner which fell to Dzeko and the veteran Bosnian striker expertly fired the ball into the top right corner.

Inter, which came into the fixture in high spirits after four consecutive wins in Serie A, doubled the lead through Mkhitaryan after Dimarco served him with a brilliant pass and the Armenian broke into Milan's box to find the net from close range.

Calhanoglu went close to adding the third when his powerful long-range shot hit the inside of the post and Mkhitaryan was denied by Milan keeper Mike Maignan.

Milan, without injured forward Rafael Leao, was stunned and things could have got worse for the host when Lautaro Martinez was taken down inside the box just after the half-hour mark. The referee pointed to the penalty spot but his decision was overturned following a VAR review.

Attacking intent, but...

Milan showed more attacking intent after the break but failed to create many clear chances, with strikes from Brahim Diaz and Junior Messias missing the target and Sandro Tonali hitting the post.

It was the first time Inter has beaten its neighbour in an European knockout tie, with Milan progressing from both previous meetings, most recently in the 2004-05 Champions League quarterfinals.

The results (second semifinal, first leg): AC Milan 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Dzeko 8, Mkhitaryan 11).

Eyeing a milestone: Kohli is just three short of Tendulkar's mark of 49 ODI hundreds. FILE PHOTO

Kohli admits breaking Tendulkar's record will be emotional moment

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former India captain Virat Kohli has admitted that breaking Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI centuries would indeed be an "emotional moment" for him.

When Tendulkar ended his career with 49 ODI hundreds, including the final one which was also his 100th international ton, not many thought that anyone would get even close to the 'Little Master'.

However, the 34-year-old Kohli now has 46 hundreds from 274 ODI games and will require three more to emulate his childhood idol and one-time teammate.

Kohli, when asked about his thoughts on reaching that milestone, he quickly says, "it will be a very emotional moment for me".

The conversation also included Kohli talking about his childhood memories of playing cricket with older boys and highlighting the importance of sports.

"Sports teaches you some values of life, discipline and planning. It opens up your side, making you a productive person. No matter which profession you are in, the value of playing sport is immense.

Sarabjot-Divya duo wins mixed air pistol gold

Sports Bureau

Sarabjot Singh and T.S. Divya beat World champions Zorana Arunovic and Damir Mikec of Serbia 16-14 to clinch the mixed air pistol gold in the World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Thursday.

With the two teams tied on 14-14, Sarabjot shot 10.6 and Divya 9.9. Zorana shot 8.6 and Mikec had 10.3. With 20.5 total as against 18.9, the Indian pair got the two points and the gold with it. The other Indian team of Esha Singh and Varun Tomar scored 578 and missed the medal round by two points.

It was the second medal for India, following the women's air pistol bronze by Rhythm Sangwan. India was second in the medals table behind China which had one gold and one silver.

The Chinese got both those medals in mixed air rifle. The Indian duo of Tilottama Sen and Hriday Hazarika placed 17th in a field of 72 teams.

Feeling proud: Sarabjot and Divya display their reward. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:
Mixed air rifle: 1. China (Huang Yuting, Sheng Lihao) 16 (634.2); 2. China-2 (Wang Zhilin, Yang Haoran) 14 (632.8); 3. Czech Republic (Aneta Brabcova, Frantisek Smetana) 17 (630.0); 4. Hungary (Denes Eszter, Pekler Zelan) 11 (630.8); 17. India-2 (Tilottama Sen, Hriday Hazarika) 627.6; 28. India (Ramita Jindal, Rudrankksh Patil) 626.3.

Mixed air pistol: 1. India (T.S. Divya, Sarabjot Singh) 16 ((581); 2. Serbia (Zorana Arunovic, Damir Mikec) 14 (581); 3. Turkey (Simal Yilmaz, Ismail Keles) 17 (581); 4. Italy (Sara Costantino, Paolo Monna) 9 (580); 6. India-2 (Esha Singh, Varun Tomar) 578.

Srikanth hires Mahardi as coach with eye on Paris

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Keeping the Paris Olympics in mind, star Indian shuttler K. Srikanth has hired an Indonesian coach to help him ramp up his game in the run-up to next year's showpiece.

The qualification period for the 2024 Olympics began on May 1 and Srikanth, who has been struggling with form, has availed the services of Wiempie Mahardi.

"I have been trying to get a coach since December 2021, when Agus left. Now I have one, Wiempie Nahardi. I met him when I went to Indonesia to train for three weeks. He came to India recently," the former world No.1 said.

India is yet to appoint a foreign coach for men's singles players since the departure of Indonesia's Agus Dwi Santoso in December 2021. After P.V. Sindhu parted ways with Park Tae Sang in February, the Korean has been helping out the men's singles players.

"I was trying to get a coach through TOPS, but somehow it didn't work out. In January, I had sent the proposal to SAI and since then it has been on hold. As the Olympic qualification period was also starting in May, I couldn't hold any longer and I decided to do it myself," Srikanth said.

A former world top-25 player, Mahardi has more than 10 years of coaching experience, having trained players in different clubs across countries.

New combo: Srikanth, who has been struggling with form, has availed the services of Mahardi. FILE PHOTO

Atanu and Mehuli re-included in TOPS

Atanu and Mehuli. FILE PHOTOS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

World Championship silver medallist archer Atanu Das has been reinducted in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) following his impressive performances in the domestic circuit and the World Cup in Antalya this year.

Atanu, who scored 673 points to claim fourth spot in the men's recurve individual rankings, was making a return to international outdoor competition after nearly one-and-a-half years. The other big names to be included in TOPS are Mehuli Ghosh, who won the 10m air rifle event at the National shooting trials and 15-year-old Tilottama Sen.

Tilottama had earlier won the 10m air rifle bronze at the Cairo World Cup – her debut outing in the senior circuit. She also has a Junior World Championships bronze and team gold won in 2022 under her belt.

A total of 27 new names were inducted in the Core and Development lists.

Indian trio has firepower to finish higher on the podium

BOXING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

After ensuring three medals and scripting India's best-ever showing at the World boxing championships in Tashkent, Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) will look to continue their good work in the semifinals on Friday and finish higher on the podium.

Bhoria, the 2019 Asian silver medallist, will take on the two-time Worlds bronze medallist Billal Bennama of France. The 26-year-old Indian, who recorded three victories by unanimous decisions, including one against Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Saken Bibossinov of Kazakhstan, will be eyeing another upset win.

Two-time Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Hussamuddin has made his World championships debut a memorable affair. The Telangana boxer, who toppled fifth-seeded Bulgarian Javier Ibanez Diaz 4-3 in the quarterfinals, will be motivated to push himself harder against Cuban Saidel Horta. One of the most impressive performances came from 22-year-old two-time National champion Nishant, who converted his quarterfinal finish at the 2021 World Championships into a medal-winning performance. His 5-0 victory over Terry Jorge Cuellar 5-0 in the last-eight is a rarest of rare instances when an Indian boxer outpunched a Cuban.

Nishant will be keen to showcase his aggression and power against reigning Asian champion Aslanbek Shymbergenov of Kazakhstan in the semifinals and make an impact on the global level.

Ready to punch: Nishant, left, will be keen to showcase his aggression against reigning Asian champion Shymbergenov. IBA

Kadhe in doubles semifinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Arjun Kadhe and Nam Ji Sung of Korea defeated Jaesung Choe and Uisung Park 7-6(3), 6-3 in the doubles quarterfinals of the $160,000 Challenger tennis in Busan, Korea, on Thursday.

Other results: €118,000 Challenger, Mauthausen, Austria: Doubles (quarterfinals): Marco Bortolotti (Ita) & Inigo Cervantes (Esp) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 6-2, 6-4.
€73,000 Challenger, Francavilla al Mare, Italy: Doubles (quarterfinals): Luca Margaroli (Sui) & Purav Raja bt Lorenzo Carboni & Lorenzo Sciahbasi (Ita) 6-4, 7-6(5).
$25,000 ITF women, Kachreti, Georgia: Pre-quarterfinals: Zhuoxuan Bai (Chn) bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-3, 6-3.
Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Stacey Fung (Can) & Maria Kozyreva bt Zeel Desai & Sahaja 7-6(5), 6-3.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, BALAJI G, S/o Govindaswamy, R/a #Nadavathi, Hosakote, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru-560067 have changed my name to Damodhar G vide affidavit dt: 11.05.2023 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru.

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
NO.1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI - 1

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION:

Notice for e-Tender Cum e-Auction for allotment of area situated at Chennai Port, inside the custom bound area, for the purpose of Handling Liquid Bulk Cargo and its allied activities, by erecting temporary tank farm structures for the operational needs, for a period of 5 years on Annual Licence basis in as is where is condition without renewal option, under two cover system from 11.05.2023 to 31.05.2023

For further details visit Ch.P.A. websites www.chennaiport.gov.in and www.eprocure.gov.in

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
INSTITUTE FOR WATER STUDIES, HYDROLOGY & QUALITY CONTROL, THARAMANI, CHENNAI

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES-FIRMS SELECTION)
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF REOI

Name of the Project : Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization (TNIAM) Project
Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: IBRD-87970
Assignment Title : Hiring Services of Consultancy Firm for Development of DSS for TNIAMP Project Area (GIS enabled Web Portal with Mobile Application)
REOI No. 15/DSS/TNIAMP/IWSHQC/WRD/2023/dt.24-04-2023

The last date for submission of the Expressions of Interest for Hiring Services of Consultancy Firm for Development of DSS for TNIAMP Project Area (GIS enabled Web Portal with Mobile Application) is extended to 31-05-2023. For further details please log on http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

Email id: ceiwshqcwrd@gmail.com Phone : 044 22542380
DIPR/2559/Tender/2023
Chief Engineer & Director, WRD
Institute for Water Studies, Hydrology & Quality Control, Tharamani, Chennai - 600 113.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owner: **Sri.S.Venkatesh** S/o Late Subramani, residing at No.650/1, B.P.S.Nilayam, 3rd Street, Ferns Paradise, Doddanekundi, Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru- 560 037.

Apart from the said Owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 10days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Industrial plot bearing No.SPL-25, presently bearing Khatha No.179/SPL 25, E-Swatthu No:15020010320012l665, measuring East to West-21.10 Mtrs and North to South-(24.95 +27.50)/2Mtrs in all measuring 553.34Sq.Mtrs along with a sheet building thereon, situated at Bommasandra II Stage Industrial Estate, Yerandahalli Village, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Plot No.Spl 24
West by : Plot No.Spl 26
North by : KIADB Road
South by : Plot No.2

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the schedule property from **Sri. S.D. RAJU,** S/o Late Sri S. Sambashivaiah, Aged about 65 years, Residing @ No.44, 1st 'A' Main Road, Opp. Ashoka Heights, Srikanteshwara Layout, Nandini Layout post, Bengaluru-560 096. Anybody got any sort of right, claim, interest over the schedule property or having any sort of objection for the said transaction shall approach the under mentioned Advocate within **7 days** from this day with documentary evidence, failing which my client shall proceed further in accordance with the terms of the agreement considering there is no objection to the said sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece & parcel of undeveloped immovable property bearing **Re. Sy. No.264/2** (old Sy.No. 264) measuring 00-23 Guntas of land, situated at **Kodipalya, Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru,** converted vide Conversion Order No.ALN(S) SR(K)114/13-14, dated 27/05/2014, issued by Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore District, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose, presently within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.198, Hemmigepura, Kengeri having Khata No. 895/264/2. And BOUNDED ON:

EAST BY : Land of Sridhar, Byrappa, & Shankarappa, WEST BY : Land of Shankarappa & Byrappa, NORTH BY : Land belonging to Sridhar, SOUTH BY : Road & Chudenapura Village Limit.

N.S. SHIVASHANKAR, Advocate
48/1, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, Opp: Canara Bank, Vallabha Nagar, Uttarahalli Main Road, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-560061.
Ph No. 9343094442, 080-41628629

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

HEAD OFFICE, 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI - 600 010
Ph. No. (044) 26426773 Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in CIN : U15137TN1972SGC006157

No : BS3/17676/2023 **Short e-TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 11.05.2023
Short E-tender No.BS3/17676/2023-TNCSC/23-24

Online electronic tender for **"PURCHASE OF 200 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms)"**

Complete Short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date for Online Submission : upto **11.00 AM** on **20.05.2023**

DIPR / 2543 / Tender / 2023
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்
MANAGING DIRECTOR

RFP Notice

SAI

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for following: -

SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-7/2022-23 to Appoint a Management Operator to Operate & Maintain 50 m Olympic Size Swimming Pool, 25 m Warm Up Swimming Pool and Swimming Pool Complex at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore.

For more details please visit website
http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app,
https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/sai/,
http://www.saisouth-bangalore.com.

The Last date of Submission of RFP is **01.06.2023** up to **16.00** hrs.

Sd/- Regional Director I/C

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Pradeep Kumar S/o. Mr. Krishnamurthy** R/at No.55, Chowlagalli, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560 002, is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property mentioned below in the Schedule and he has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 20-01-1969, registered as document No.3687/1968-69 of Book I, Volume 2186, pages 165-168, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 11-05-2023, Lost report No. 0559442/2023. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitable awarded, and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing BBMP **Katha No.18,** assigned to property **No.18,** Old No.16, then No:23, thereafter 21, PID No.47-123-18, measuring (1) East to West 31.06 feet and North to South 13.06 and (2) East to West 31.06 feet and North to South 3.06 feet, situated at **Old Chamarajapete Road, Cubbonpete, Bangalore,** comprising of a building, bounded on:

East by: Property belongs to Mr. Madimane Shanthappa; West by: Passage belonging to schedule Property leading to road Thereafter property of Mr. Chikka Bhavansa; North by : Property belongs to Mr. Chikka Bhavansa; South by : Property belongs to Mrs. Vasundara S K & Mr. Pradeep Kumar;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-500 020.
Contact : 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from its owners viz., **Sri. Jonathan Richard Chelli** S/o. **Sri** Joseph Chelli & **Smt Catherine Laveena Satyamitra** W/o. Sri Jonathan Richard Chelli. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the intended sale transaction, he/she/they may contact the undersigned withdocumentproof substantiatinghis/her/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s within Seven(7) days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner/s as if there are no thirdpartyclaims/objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Apartment bearing Flat No. A-805 on the Eighth Floor in the Building No. A, measuring 1355 Sq. feet of Carpet Area at the residential apartment complex known as "MANTRI SAROVAR", constructed on the land bearing Survey Nos 137/1 and 137/2 situated at Agara Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and Presently bearing BBMP Khatha No.886/651/378/137/2A-805.

ROOPASHETTY,Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810,
'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.Phone: 080-22583563,
Mobile No.9902026199
Email: info@lexsitus.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my client intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners **Mrs. Manjula .K** daughter of late Narayanappa, and W/o Krishnappa residing at Rampura Village, Sulibelle Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, she having acquired title to the same by Gift Deed dated 19.01.2021 registered as document No. MLR-1-05930/2020-21 of Book I, stored CD No.MLRD681 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Malur.

All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing **New Sy.No.42/9** (Old Sy.No.42/2) measuring **16 guntas** situated at Madanahatti Venkatapura village kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District and bounded as follows:

On the East by : land belongs to Krishnappa,
On the West by : Road,
On the North by : Land belongs to Sri. Dinakar Tejareddy,
On the South by : Land belongs to Sri. Harish,

NETHRAVATHI .V, Advocate
No. 1698, 8th Main Road, HAL 3rd Stage,
Bengaluru - 560 075.
Place: Bengaluru, Date: 11.05.2022

WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha **"e" Procurement Notice**
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-02/2023-24
No.2405 / Dt.06.05.2023

Nature of work	:-	Roads & Buildings Works
Number of works	:-	2 Nos Buildings Works & 1 No. Culvert Work
Amount put to Tender	:-	Rs.116.67 Lakh to Rs.166.66 Lakh
Class of Contractor	:-	"A" Class / "B" Class
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal	:-	Dt.15.05.2023 at 10.00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	:-	Dt.29.05.2023 up to 05.00 PM
Date of opening of bid	:-	Dt.30.05.2023 at 11.00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid	:-	Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore.

The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"http//tendersodisha.gov.in"**. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd/- R.Rout, Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
B-185: OIPR-34026/11/0002/2324

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TENDER ALERT

1)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-03/2023-24: Bids are invited under single stage two-envelope system from reputed EPC/ Turnkey Contractors for "Engineering, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 132kV DC line on 220kV lattice type tower using ACSR zebra conductor from proposed 220/132/33kV GIS, Balianta up to Gangua Canal for connectivity of GIS at Mancheswar and proposed GIS at Satyanagar having approx. line length-3.0KM on Turnkey Contract Basis at an estimated Cost of Rs.10.99 crore.

For more details please visit: **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in.** HIPR-07/2023-24

CAD-537 OIPR-04011/11/0020/2324

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST-04 / 2023-24
Notice No.14589, Dt.09.05.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Steam Room, Sauna Room, Ice Bath Room at Aquatic Complex & Plunge pools at Athletic Complex, Kalinga Stadium Campus, Bhubaneswar (on Turnkey Basis)
2. Value of the Work : Rs.430.00 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding
   - I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.18.05.2023
   - II. End Date : 15:00 Hours of dt.02.06.2023
   - III. Opening date : 16:00 Hours of dt.02.06.2023
   - IV. Pre-Bid meeting date : 12.00 Hours of dt.26.05.2023

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen **in e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

CAD-547: **Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar**
OIPR-14003/11/0042/2324

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my clients **SRI. ROOHI RAJ PAKALAPATI S/O. LATE PAKALAPATI SEETHARAMA RAJU & SMT. JHANSI RANI PAKALAPATI W/O. LATE PAKALAPATI SEETHARAMA RAJU,** both are residing at: G 1, Phase 2, Chourasia Manor, Panathur .B.O. Kadabeesanahalli, Bengaluru: - 560 0103.My client has interested to purchase the below stated **site/Plot No. 6**, Property No. 69, situated at Horamavu Agera Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, earlier it was Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring **EAST TO WEST: 36 FEET & NORTH TO SOUTH: 56 FEET TOTAL MEASURING 2016, SQ.FEET.** and bounded on the :-

BOUNDED:-

East By : Private Property,
West by : 1st Street, (25 feet Road)
North by : House No.7,
South by : Site No. 5,

That the present owners are jointly executed the payment receipt dt:- 09.03.2023, between the on Mr. Ashok Krishna Reddy S/o. T. Krishna Reddy, has been paid to 1. Mr. K. Prakash has been received a sum of Rs, 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs only), by way of RTGS Ref:- No. 0620732297,ICICI Bank, Dt:- 08.03.2023, 2) Mr.Promod, has been received a sum of Rs. 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Laksh only)by way of RTGS Ref:- 306716920374, dt:- 08.03.2023, 3) Mr. Prasanth has been received a sum of Rs. 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs only) by way of RTGS Ref:- 306716943048, dt:- 08.03.2023, as a advance amount has been received of agreement of sale. with present of witness, the executive. It is further stated that my clients are going to buy the above satated schedule property, whereas the my clients are also agreed to purchases the same for a above said sale consideration.

Regarding about stated site owner are his legal heirs or Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title, interest or claims of any sort towards the Sale transaction may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned within **TEN DAYS (10)** from the date of this publication, failing which my clients will proceed on the basis that are no claims will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereof.

M.A. JAYAKUMAR, Advocate
No. 960/1, Ground Floor, D.M. Complex,
Opp. V.V. Convention Hall, Babusapalya,
Bengaluru-560 043. Mob : 9449669991
jk.legal.associates@gmail.com
Date : 11.05.2023 Place : Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that, our client, intends to purchase the immovable property more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners **MRS. ARCHANA SRINIVASAN**, W/o Mr. Baskar Venkatesan, residing at Old No - 15, New No - 29 (#15/29), Balaji Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai - Tamil Nadu - 6000024.

Any persons, financial institutions having any sort of claim / rights / interest / charge on the below said property or any objections for the said sale of the property may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the below said property and our client shall be advised to proceed with the proposed transaction. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Site No.150, Now bearing BBMP Khatha No. 144/150,** in Sy.Nos.9, 10/1,2,3, 11, 12, 13/1,,2, 14/1,2,3, 15/1, 16/1p, 17/1,2, 18/1,2,3, 19, 21/1,2, 22/2, 23/1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 25, 26/1A, 26/1B2, 1B3, 1B4, 2B, 2C, 2D, of Thubarahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, now within Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits, Bangalore formed by the BEML Employees Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., and approved by the BDA vide their letter No. BDA/TPM/DDW/1240/1992-93 and **Site measuring East to West 40.6 + 40 Feet/2, North to South : 30 Feet, in all measuring 134.16 Square Yards, along with a Residential House constructed thereon, consisting Ground Floor First Floor Duplex and Second Floor, totally built up area 3000 Sq.Ft, with RCC Roofed, Vitrified flooring,** and bounded on the ; **East By :** Private property, **West By :** Road ; **North By:** Site No. 149 ; **South By** : Site No. 151.

Sd/-
V. LAKSHMIPATHI,
Advocate, S L Law Associates,
No.106/A1, 1st Floor, KRS Complex,
Kodathi, Carmelaram Post,
Bangalore-560035, +91 9886985713
email: sllawassociates@gmail.com

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U.P. RERA invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Quasi-Judicial Process in e-Courts

Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (U.P. RERA) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Indian consulting/ Information Technology firms for Conceptualizing, Developing and Implementing an Intelligent Quasi-Judicial Decision-Making System (Smart Court).

The EOI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria etc. can be downloaded from the website www.up-rera.in.

Further details, if any, may be obtained from the Secretary, Naveen Bhavan, Rajya Niyojan Sansthan, Kala Kankar House, Old Hyderabad, Lucknow - 226007 during working hours.

Last date for submission of EOI is 26th May 2023 up to 1500 hrs. The Consultants may submit their proposals using the online form made available on the U.P. RERA web portal www.up-rera.in.

Applicants meeting the qualification criteria will be invited for presentation before the committee of U.P. RERA. Subsequently, a Request for Proposal (RFP) may be issued by U.P. RERA for procurement.

Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority

Naveen Bhavan, Rajya Niyojan Sansthan, Kala Kankar House, Old Hyderabad, Lucknow - 226007, **Email: consultant_pmd @up-rera.in**

Note: U.P. RERA or any of it designates reserves the right to cancel this request for EOI and/or invite afresh with or without amendments, without liability or any obligation for such request for EOI and without assigning any reason. Information provided at this stage is indicative and U.P. RERA reserves the right to amend/add further details in the EOI.

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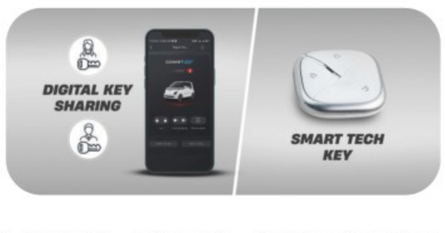

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